

GADGETS MAGAZINE



GADGETSLAB

Lenovo Legion Go S
Dyson Supersonic r
Xiaomi Band 10

HOME

**Sharp Ways in Elevating
Home Comfort and
Convenience**

Top Reasons Internet Outages
Happen and What You Should Do

COVER STORY

**What's Next
For Tech?**

The Update You Didn't
See Coming
Digital Kanto Eats

SOCIAL MEDIA

**Why Gen Z is
Turning to Dump
Accounts**

THE TECH EDGE

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SHARP

JAPAN TECHNOLOGY

Clean and Healthy Air this Rainy Season



Plasmacluster Ion Air Purifier with Dehumidifier



Recommended for:



Rainy Season

and

High Humidity Place



1 Helps Laundry Dry Faster



2 Prevents Mold Build-up

3 With 3-Steps Filtering System

(Pre-Filter, Deodorizing Filter, HEPA Filter)



DW-E16FP-W

24 sqm.



DW-J27FP-S

67 sqm.





What's Next for Tech

Words by **Gabriel Pe**

Over the past 25 years, we've chronicled the best in gadgets and technology, both in the Philippines and around the world. A lot has changed since our first issue rolled off the presses at the turn of the century. We've covered icons like the Nokia 3310, the first iPod, the rise of USB, and the shift to cloud computing. These weren't just devices; they were milestones that shaped how we live, work, and connect.

While it's fun to look back, there's even more to look forward to. As we enter a new era in tech, here are some innovations you'll be seeing sooner than you think.

The Age of AI

Welcome to the age of AI! Artificial Intelligence is no longer just a buzzword.

It's becoming the backbone of modern technology. From computing and consumer devices to medicine and research, AI is reshaping how we interact with the world.

Tech giants are investing heavily in AI development, racing to build faster, smarter, and more efficient models. Google, for instance, has integrated its Gemini AI into search results, offering users AI-generated summaries. In the U.S., some users can also opt into a full Gemini-powered search experience. This shift marks a major change in how we access and process information.

Meanwhile, Meta is embedding AI into its platforms in more subtle but equally powerful ways. Meta AI is now part of

Messenger, offering users smart suggestions and responses. The company also launched Meta smart glasses, which allow users to interact with the digital world.

Google has taken a more gradual approach. It started with a dedicated Gemini app for smartphones and is now merging Gemini with Google Assistant. Just this year, Google and Samsung announced a new line of AI-powered wearables, signaling a new race in smart device innovation.

While early AI gadgets like the Rabbit R1 and Humane AI Pin didn't quite take off, they laid the groundwork for what's coming next: AI that's less about novelty and more about utility.

From Virtual to Extended: XR Takes Over

Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) have come a long way. Once sci-fi dreams, they're now part of everyday life thanks to brands like HTC, Valve, Microsoft, and Meta. These technologies have evolved from niche gaming gear to tools used in education, design, and even therapy.

In recent years, the line between VR and AR has blurred, giving rise to **Extended Reality (XR)**—a term that covers VR, AR, Mixed Reality, and emerging immersive tech. XR is poised to redefine how we interact with digital content.

Meta's smart glasses are a great example. They don't display visuals like traditional AR, but they let users interact with the digital world through voice commands—asking Meta AI to take

photos, translate text, and more. Google's upcoming XR glasses, demoed last summer, feature a small display on top of regular eyeglasses. It can show text, images, and even respond to Gemini-powered queries.

XR isn't limited to wearables. Holographic displays are also gaining traction. While we're not quite at Star Wars-level holograms, heads-up displays in cars are a clever workaround. These use dashboard reflections to project information directly into the driver's line of sight, improving safety and convenience.

Holograms also appear in entertainment. Concerts have used holographic tech combining lasers and projectors to bring digital performers to life. It has even been used to bring back a dead artist for a final performance, blending nostalgia and innovation through technology that continues to evolve.





Biotech: The Next Leap in Medicine

Tech isn't just about phones and wearables. It's also transforming medicine in profound ways. One of the most exciting developments is **biotechnology**, which combines biology and engineering to create new medical solutions.

Biotech is driving breakthroughs in personalized medicine, antibody development, and gene therapy. It's helping researchers tackle future pandemics and explore cures for diseases once thought untreatable. Gene editing, for example, could one day eliminate inherited conditions or prevent certain illnesses altogether.

Personalized medicine is another game-changer. Instead of one-size-fits-all treatments, doctors can now tailor medications to an individual's genetic makeup, which is especially helpful for those with allergies or resistance to common drugs.

Human augmentation is also gaining attention. Elon Musk's Neuralink project

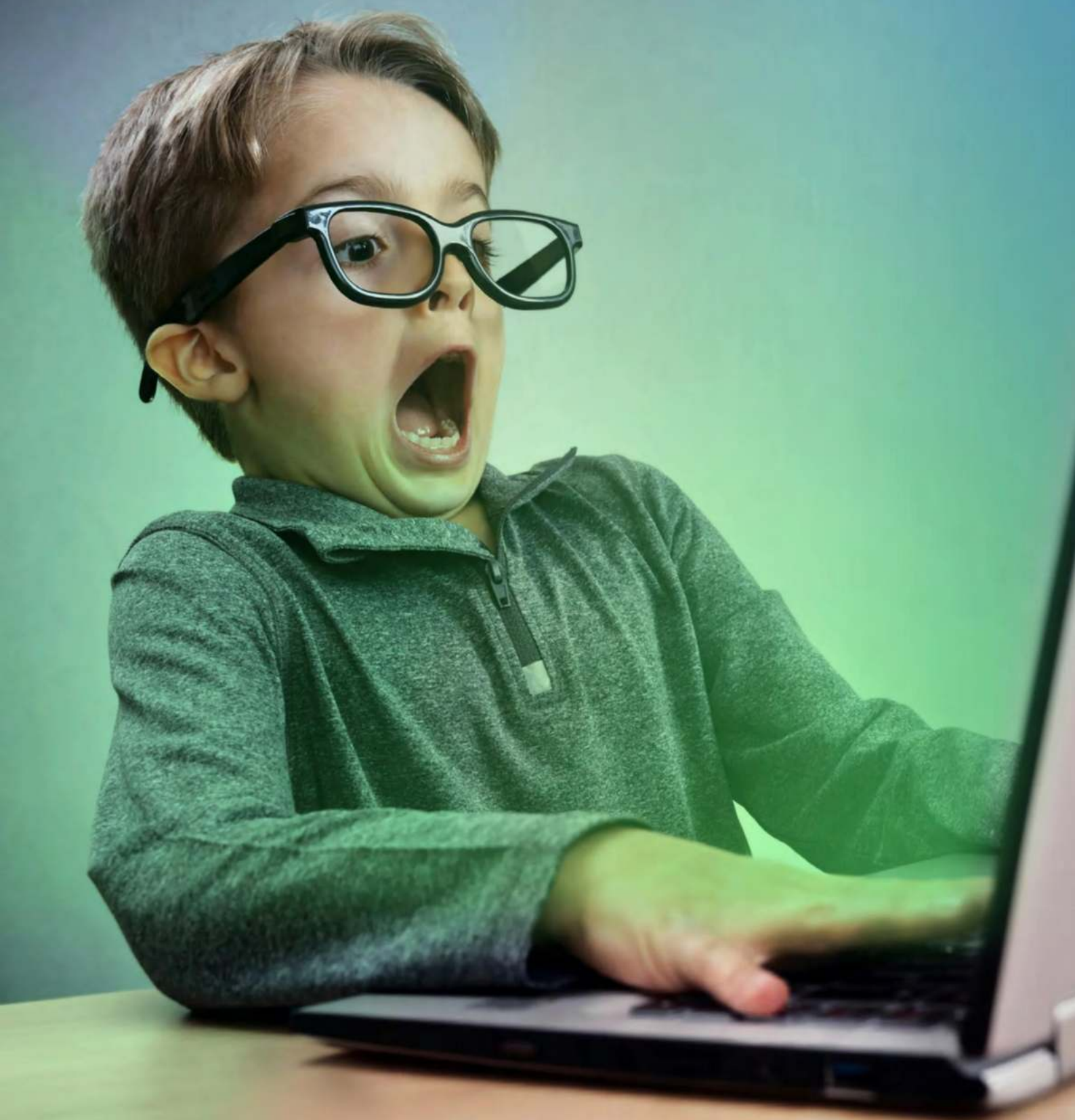
aims to connect the human brain with computers, potentially offering new hope for people with disabilities. While still in early stages, this kind of research could redefine how we interact with technology, and how technology interacts with us.

Biotech isn't just about treatment. It's about prevention, personalization, and even enhancement. It's a field where science fiction is quickly becoming science fact.

Looking Ahead

The world of tech has evolved rapidly over the last 25 years, and it's not slowing down. Some innovations have faded into obscurity, while others have made unexpected comebacks. What's certain is that human creativity will continue to push boundaries.

Whether it's AI, XR, or biotech, the future of tech is full of promise. And as always, we'll be here to explore it with you.



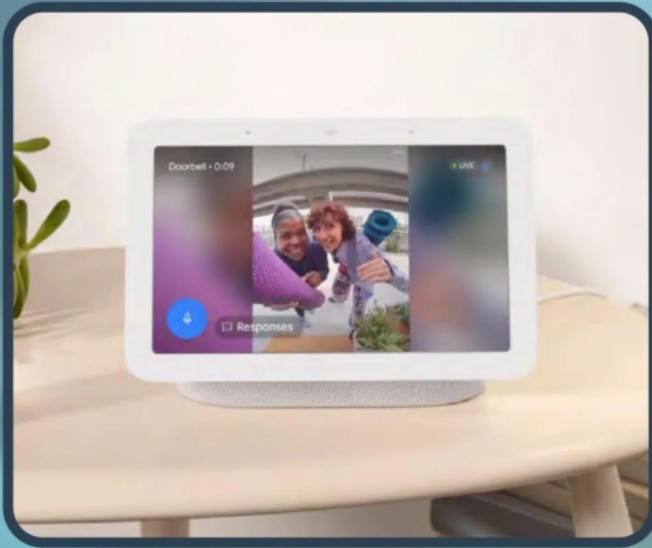


THE UPDATE YOU DIDN'T SEE COMING

Words by **Phia Manuell Layoso**

No pop-up notification. No software prompt. But somehow, tech has quietly reprogrammed how we live—from the way we wake up and move, to how we care for ourselves. This isn't about flashy new gadgets. It's about how innovation has subtly woven itself into our everyday routines.

Just a few decades ago, the internet was a novelty. We printed maps, waited for TV schedules, and lined up to pay bills. Now, we tap, swipe, and voice-command our way through life without even thinking about it. The shift from pre-Internet to today's hyper-connected world wasn't loud, but it was profound. You didn't just download an update. You're living it.



Smart Homes: Your House Is Smarter Than You Think

What once felt like sci-fi is now standard. Smart homes are quietly reshaping how we live. Motion-sensing lights, voice-controlled assistants, and fridges that know when you're low on eggs—these aren't luxuries anymore. They're becoming the norm.

Devices like Amazon Echo and Google Nest Hub let you control lights, locks, and doorbells with just your voice. Samsung's Family Hub fridge shows you what's inside—even when you're at the grocery store. Philips Hue lights adjust to your schedule, setting the mood without you lifting a finger.

Tech isn't just in your home—it is your home. It's in the walls, the appliances, the routines. Your house doesn't just have Wi-Fi. It is Wi-Fi.

Seamless Mobility: Getting Around, Upgraded

Mobility today is smoother, smarter, and far less stressful. From app-connected scooters to cars that park themselves, commuting is turning into a tech-powered glide.

Electric vehicles like the Tesla Model 3 and Hyundai Ioniq 5 come with autopilot and smart route planning. Apps like Waze and Google Maps use real-time data to dodge traffic. Grab and Xpress offer cashless rides,

while Angkas and Joyride motorbike taxis solve the last-mile problem in busy cities.

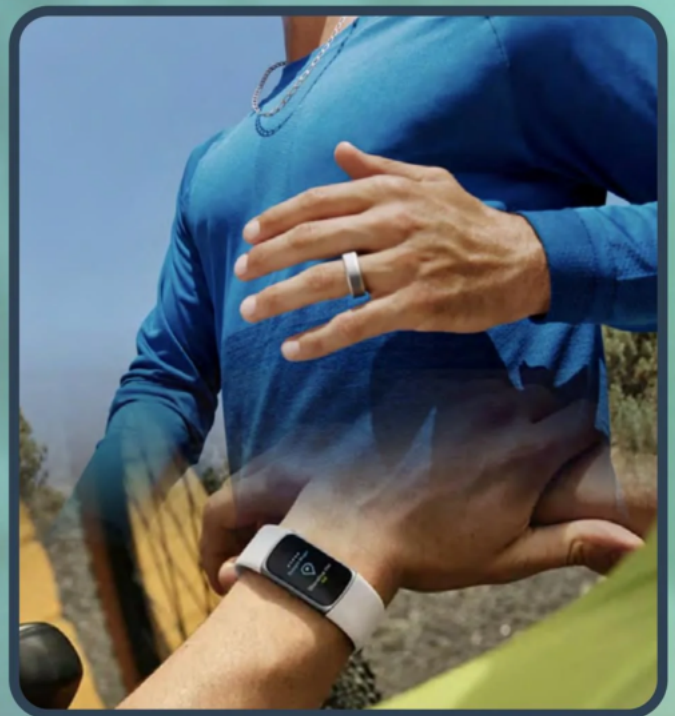
Whether it's EVs with autopilot, train schedules synced to your phone, or AI-powered traffic tips—getting from A to B no longer feels like a journey through Z.

Tech-Enhanced Wellness: Self-Care, Upgraded

Fitness bands count your steps. Sleep apps analyze your snooze patterns. Smart rings detect stress before you even feel it. Wellness tech today doesn't just track—it coaches, nudges, and predicts.

The Apple Watch Series 9 monitors heart rate, sleep, blood oxygen, and even menstrual cycles. Fitbit Charge 6 offers guided breathing and personalized workouts. The Oura Ring tracks sleep and stress so precisely that even elite athletes swear by it. Apps like Calm and Headspace guide you through mindfulness exercises to boost focus and reduce anxiety.

Whether you're meditating with a virtual coach or tracking hydration through your watch, tech is your wellness partner—quietly supportive, always present.





Sustainable Living: Saving the Planet, One Click at a Time

Tech and sustainability used to be separate conversations. Now, they're one. From solar-powered devices to apps that fight food waste, green tech is making eco-friendly choices easier than ever.

The EcoFlow River 2 brings solar charging to homes and travelers. Nest's smart thermostat learns your habits to cut energy use. Apps like Loop and Too Good To Go help you shop sustainably and rescue surplus food. Electric scooters like the Segway Ninebot Max or Hatasu e-bikes make short trips cleaner and greener.

You don't need to live off-grid to live sustainably. You just need smart tech that thinks green for you.

The Invisible Revolution: Life, But Smarter

The biggest tech revolution? It's the one you barely notice. Automation, personalization, and silent optimization are working behind the scenes—saving time, energy, and effort without demanding your attention.

IFTTT (If This Then That) automates your digital chores—from turning on lights when you walk in, to reminding you if the oven's still on. The Roomba i7+ maps your home and cleans while you're out. Your phone—whether it's a Galaxy Z Fold7 or an iPhone 16

Pro—learns your habits and adjusts battery use, app suggestions, and more.

It's not about flashy features. It's about making life smoother. In a world that updates overnight, you're already living the upgrade—you just didn't notice.

From Subtle to Significant

There was no press release. No dramatic shift. But look around—your home thinks, your car analyzes, your phone guides, and your watch cares about your health.

This isn't the future. It's the now. Quietly updated, intuitively connected, and deeply embedded in your daily life.

We're part of a revolution that didn't need noise to be heard. Because the update has already installed itself. Welcome to version 2025—you're already running it.



Words by Aljhelyn Piador

You step out of school, backpack heavy with notebooks and deadlines, and head straight for the corner. It's late afternoon, and the air is thick with the scent of deep-fried dreams—fishballs, kwek-kwek, calamares—all sizzling in golden oil. You dig into your pocket and count the last of your allowance. Just enough for Manong's famous 3-for-5 pesos and a generous scoop of orange sauce.

No menu. No receipts. Just nods, sauce choices, and trust. This is the after-school ritual, the comfort food of students and workers alike. The turo-turo, the food cart, the kanto stall. It's where stories are swapped, friendships are formed, and flavors become memories.

But quietly, things are changing.

DIGITAL KANTO E HOW MICRO FOOD ARE GOING HIGH-



SWIPE, DIP, AND FRY

In recent years, Filipino street vendors have started blending tradition with tech. It's part of a broader movement called inclusive innovation—making sure even the smallest players benefit from digital progress. Tools like QR codes and mobile apps aren't just trendy; they're opening doors to the digital economy.



Across cities and barangays, micro foodpreneurs are going cashless. Where coins once ruled, laminated GCash and Maya QR codes now hang proudly on stalls. It's fast, secure, and perfect for a generation that might not carry change but never forgets their phone.

Social media is also changing the game. Vendors post daily menus, promos, and shoutouts on Facebook and TikTok, reaching customers far beyond foot traffic. Some even take pre-orders via Messenger, making transactions smoother and more efficient.

EATS: IPRENEURS -TECH

Grab
Food



THE DELIVERY-ONLY HUSTLE

As vendors look to grow, many are tapping into delivery apps and online platforms. This is the *platform economy* in action—connecting small food businesses with hungry customers through apps like GrabFood and FoodPanda.

Some are skipping the physical stall altogether, opting for ghost kitchens—delivery-only setups with no storefront. For popular micro brands, renting space in a shared cloud kitchen means reaching more customers while keeping operations lean.

THE FUTURE DIGITAL TURD-TURD

The food cart of tomorrow will be powered by more than just oil and hustle. Mobile POS systems can help vendors track sales and understand customer habits. These tools streamline prep, reduce waste, and boost profits.

Inventory apps prevent overbuying, while loyalty programs keep suki customers coming back. Even AI-powered dashboards are entering the scene, offering pricing tips and bundle suggestions based on real data.

Cloud kitchens provide scalable growth without the need for physical expansion. Shared facilities and delivery infrastructure let micro foodpreneurs grow smart and sustainably.

MSME GLOW-UP

Digitalization is a big win for Filipino MSMEs. It levels the playing field, giving small vendors access to tools once reserved for big businesses. With just a smartphone, they can accept payments, promote their brand, and join delivery platforms.



POS systems offer financial clarity—tracking income, managing costs, and even helping with microloan applications. Social media builds brand identity and trust within the community.

Best of all, tech-enabled growth is low-risk and scalable. Cloud kitchens, online ordering, and mobile platforms let MSMEs test markets and expand without huge investments.

SUSTAINABILITY IN EVERY BITE

Going digital isn't just about convenience—it's also about sustainability. With better tracking tools, vendors can reduce food waste by prepping smarter. Pre-orders and data-driven schedules mean fewer spoiled ingredients and more efficient cooking.

Hyperlocal delivery cuts down on transport emissions, while smarter order data helps reduce packaging waste. Shared kitchen spaces save energy and promote resource sharing, especially for vendors without permanent stalls.

In short, digital tools help micro food businesses operate more mindfully—without sacrificing flavor or profit.



FINAL BITE

The neighborhood food cart, once powered by hustle and hand-me-down sauce recipes, is now running on data, digital tools, and a drive to grow. And honestly? We're all for it.

Tech is making life easier for vendors and suki alike. But let's not lose the heart of it all. We still want our turo-turo moments—the nods, the sauce choices, the stories.

So yes, let's embrace innovation. But let's also keep the warmth and flavor that made these stalls our go-to in the first place. The future can be high-tech and still taste like home.

Why Gen Z Is Turning to Dump Accounts:

CONTROLLED INTIMACY IN THE AGE OF OVERSHARING

Words by Aljhelyn Piador





A profile with no bio. No curated grid. No polished selfies. Just a scattered feed of random uploads: worn-out sneakers beside a half-finished coffee, a grainy meme, a Notes app screenshot mid-overthink. Then a long, all-caps, emotionally charged caption under a pixelated photo of a congressional session on TV, dragging a politician for being “illogical and stupid despite that fat paycheck and fancy title.”

It's a dump account—an intentionally messy, semi-private space for the things that don't “fit the feed.” For Gen Z, these accounts are digital breathing rooms in a world wired for aesthetics, algorithms, and applause.



The Case for Dump Accounts



At their best, dump accounts are acts of digital resistance. A way to reclaim control in an era of constant visibility. While main accounts often serve as personal brands, feeding into aesthetic pressure and social metrics, dump accounts are refreshingly human. They're where someone can post three unrelated photos, a blurry mirror selfie, and an emotional caption—without needing it to “make sense.”



Sociologists Alice Marwick and Danah Boyd call this **context collapse**: the merging of all our audiences into one digital space. On platforms like Instagram or Facebook, you're simultaneously addressing your parents, classmates, boss, and romantic interests. This forces self-censorship and fuels digital anxiety.

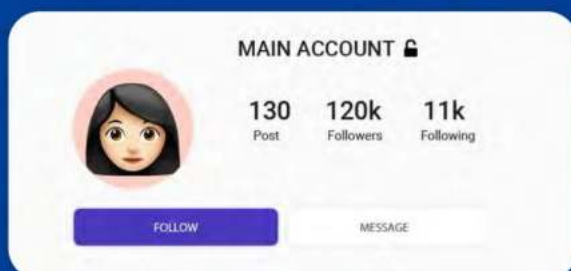
Dump accounts offer a workaround. Instead of tailoring content to a mixed

audience, users control who sees it. By limiting visibility to a trusted few, Gen Z reintroduces contextual boundaries, restoring micro-communities where authenticity can thrive without fear of misinterpretation.

It's also about **controlled intimacy**. Adding someone to your dump account is like handing them a spare key to your inner world, minus the pressure to perform. These accounts become modern confessional booths, friendship diaries, or emotional group chats with an Instagram interface.

And beneath it all is something more profound: **freedom in secrecy**. Not secrecy to hide something wrong, but to protect something real. Vulnerability, here, doesn't need packaging. In a world where everything feels like content, secrecy becomes a space not just to be seen, but to be understood.

Privacy Illusions, Echo Chambers, and Digital Exhaustion



Still, dump accounts aren't without contradictions. While they offer refuge, they also reinforce a kind of double life. Gen Z may be rejecting polished content, but they're still performing, just in a different tone. "Here's my chaotic side" is still a brand, especially when followed by affirming comments like "sameee" or "(2)."

There's also the illusion of privacy. Dump accounts feel safer, but screenshots, leaks, and accidental exposure are always risks. The intimacy feels real, but it's still happening on platforms designed to harvest attention and data.

Selective audience control can also lead to ideological insulation. When users handpick who sees their unfiltered thoughts, it fosters intimacy, but also echo chambers. Rants and emotional bursts often receive agreement, not challenge. While validating, this can distort reality and reinforce tribalism.

In extreme cases, it may breed us-vs-them thinking, where outsiders—family, boomers, political opponents—are dismissed as irrelevant. The primary account polishes the persona; the dump account may quietly entrench division under the guise of authenticity.

* The Rejection of the Algorithmic Self

At the heart of it all is Gen Z's exhaustion with algorithmic identity, constantly shaping the self to fit what performs well. After growing up in digital spaces dominated by likes, views, and virality, many young people are craving the opposite.

Dump accounts also reflect **parasocial fatigue**: burnout from being both the observer and the observed. Watching others live their best lives while managing your own digital presence is emotionally draining. Dump accounts offer a way to participate in digital culture without being consumed by it.

They're not just rebellion. They're refuge. And maybe more importantly, they're quiet declarations of freedom.





A Digital Middle Ground

Through dump accounts and private circles, Gen Z proves that authenticity and privacy are still possible online, just not in the places we were told to look. These spaces feel like resistance: against algorithms, overexposure, and the pressure to perform.

But how free is this freedom, really? These comforting corners of the internet still live on platforms engineered for surveillance and

profit. The blurry fries, the vulnerable rants, the cryptic Spotify lyrics may feel radically honest, but they're still content. Still data points in someone else's system.

Maybe there's something powerful in posting just because you felt like it. No branding. No filters. Just digital honesty in a world that may have forgotten what that looks like.

ASUS ROG NUC

Mini PC

Starts at PHP125,000 – RTX 5070 Ti

Starts at PHP162,000 – RTX 5080

THE COMPACT desktop revolution takes a bold step forward with the ASUS ROG NUC (2025), the first gaming mini PC to pack this level of power into a form factor under 3 liters. Tailored for serious gamers and creators, the ROG NUC fuses flagship components, AI acceleration, and whisper-quiet cooling into a chassis smaller than most gaming peripherals, proving that big performance no longer demands a big footprint.

At the heart of the system is the new Intel Core Ultra 9 275HX processor, featuring a 24-core hybrid architecture, turbo boost speeds up to 5.4GHz, and an integrated Intel AI Boost NPU. Paired with up to 96GB of DDR5-6400 memory, this setup delivers uncompromising responsiveness for both gaming and professional workloads, such as 3D rendering or 4K editing.

Graphics performance gets a generational leap with up to an NVIDIA GeForce RTX 5080 Laptop GPU, leveraging DLSS 4, Ray Reconstruction, and Super Resolution

for ultra-smooth frame rates and stunning visuals. Users can also choose from RTX 5070 Ti, 5070, or 5060 variants, each backed by fast GDDR7 memory and NVIDIA's latest AI-enhanced rendering tech.



While compact, the ROG NUC (2025) is designed for thermal stability. Its QuietFlow triple-fan cooling system, paired with dual vapor chambers, ensures sustained performance under heavy load, without the noise.

Connectivity is next-gen across the board: WiFi 7, Bluetooth 5.4, and Thunderbolt 4 USB-C headline a comprehensive I/O that also includes six USB 10Gbps ports, dual HDMI 2.1, and DisplayPort 2.1. With tool-less access for quick upgrades and an elegant vertical stand, the ROG NUC (2025) is a workstation, a gaming rig, and a design statement in one.

For creatives, ASUS is bundling a 3-month Adobe Creative Cloud subscription, making this mini powerhouse just as appealing for video editors and designers as it is for competitive gamers.

With its game-changing blend of size, specs, and style, the ROG NUC (2025) proves that the future of desktop performance is smaller, faster, and more efficient than ever.



COLORFUL SMART 900

Mini PC

COLORFUL is stepping into the AI computing era with the launch of the SMART 900 Mini PC, a sleek and compact system designed for creators, students, and professionals seeking serious performance without the bulk of a desktop. Built around AMD's latest Ryzen AI Max+ 395 processor, the SMART 900 brings desktop-caliber computing to a minimalist 4-liter chassis.

At its core is the Ryzen AI Max+ 395, a 16-core, 32-thread processor based on AMD's advanced Zen 5 architecture. With a boost clock of up to 5.1GHz and 80MB of cache, it's built for intensive multitasking and creative workflows. Integrated Radeon 8060S graphics with 40 compute units deliver robust visual performance, rivaling discrete mobile GPUs and making it capable of handling real-time editing, rendering, and light gaming.

What sets the SMART 900 apart in today's creator-first landscape is its dedicated 50 TOPS NPU (Neural Processing Unit), which accelerates AI workloads, from generative content to machine learning inference tasks. Whether you're working on AI art,



video enhancement, or large language models, the SMART 900 is designed to keep up.

Despite its power, the SMART 900 is remarkably portable and stylish. Housed in a precision-machined aluminum enclosure with an anodized metallic finish, it measures just 4 liters in volume and maintains a clean, modern aesthetic suitable for creative studios, offices, or even minimalist home setups.

Connectivity is where the SMART 900 truly shines. It comes equipped with:

- 2x USB 4.0 Type-C ports
- 3x USB 3.2 Gen2, 2x USB 2.0, and an

- SD 4.0 card slot for fast file transfers
- HDMI 2.1, DP 1.4, and 2.5G Ethernet
- Wi-Fi 7 and Bluetooth 5.2 for cutting-edge wireless support

Storage is handled by dual M.2 2280 PCIe 4.0 SSD slots, while high-speed LPDDR5 memory at 8000MHz ensures smooth multitasking and responsiveness.

With its blend of raw power, AI acceleration, and meticulous design, the COLORFUL SMART 900 redefines what a mini PC can offer. Whether you're a digital nomad, a creative professional, or a tech-savvy student, this machine delivers a future-ready experience in an ultra-compact footprint.







Epson WorkForce Enterprise AM-M5500

Printer

EPSON is expanding its enterprise-grade printing solutions with the debut of the WorkForce Enterprise AM-M5500, the brand's first A3 monochrome mid-range model designed for high-speed, high-volume printing. Compact yet powerful, the AM-M5500 is engineered to meet the needs of today's dynamic office environments, delivering robust performance while supporting sustainability goals.

With a print speed of 55 pages per minute (ppm) and simplex scan speeds of 70 images per minute (ipm) or 140ipm for duplex scanning, the AM-M5500 keeps up with demanding workloads without compromising on quality or efficiency. Its design makes it particularly well-suited for organizations that rely heavily on black-and-white document printing, especially in offices where space is limited.

The device is also equipped with advanced functionality such as Optical Character Recognition (OCR), available via an optional module, allowing users to create searchable and editable digital documents—ideal for businesses transitioning to paperless workflows.

Ease of use takes center stage with the AM-M5500's 10.1-inch tiltable LCD touchscreen, featuring a modern,

consistent user interface across Epson's entire AM-series line. A redesigned, curved chassis gives the printer a contemporary edge, while optional configurations, such as dual cassettes, inner finishers, and booklet-making capabilities, make it a flexible solution for both small teams and large departments.

Beyond performance, the AM-M5500 reflects Epson's continued commitment to sustainability. It leverages the company's Heat-Free Technology, reducing energy consumption by up to 85% compared to traditional laser printers. Built with 30% recycled plastic and packaged in eco-friendly materials, the AM-M5500 also minimizes waste through its simplified design, requiring fewer consumables and replacement parts.

Eco-conscious features include a power consumption monitoring tool and duplex mode reminders, such as a green leaf icon that encourages users to adopt paper-saving practices. Combined, these features reduce both environmental impact and operational costs.

With its balance of performance, efficiency, and sustainability, the Epson WorkForce Enterprise AM-M5500 is a future-ready solution for organizations looking to streamline document output while reducing their carbon footprint.



Garmin Forerunner 570 | 970

Smartwatch

PHP45,960 – Forerunner 970

PHP33,490 – Forerunner 570

GARMIN has redefined endurance tech with its latest Forerunner smartwatches—the 570 and 970—purpose-built for runners, triathletes, and goal-driven athletes. These next-gen wearables combine cutting-edge performance metrics, adaptive training features, and vibrant AMOLED displays in sleek, lightweight packages that feel just as at home on the trail as they do in the gym.

At the heart of both models is Garmin's brightest AMOLED display to date, making key stats, maps, and notifications instantly legible in any condition. Whether you're chasing a new PR or navigating race day strategy, these watches offer unmatched personalization and precision.

The Forerunner 570, available in 42mm and 47mm sizes, is a data powerhouse. It tracks VO2 max, training load, wrist-based running power, running dynamics, and even daily training readiness—an insightful score based on sleep, recovery, and recent workouts. The watch also delivers adaptive daily suggested workouts and full Garmin Coach training plans for running, cycling, and strength training. For outdoor sessions, SatIQ™ and multi-band GPS ensure superior accuracy while maximizing battery efficiency.

Beyond performance, the 570 monitors holistic health, including sleep score, stress, menstrual cycle, and heart rate variability (HRV) to give athletes a deeper understanding of their body's readiness and resilience. It features an aluminum bezel, along with fun new colorways, such as raspberry with a translucent bone

and mango band, amp yellow with a translucent whitestone and turquoise band, and indigo with a translucent imperial purple and indigo band.

The Forerunner 970 builds on the 570's capabilities with integrated full-color mapping and navigation features. Designed for more advanced users, it includes dynamic round-trip routing, course creation via Garmin Connect, and turn-by-turn directions to keep you on pace and on track—whether running through city streets or remote trails. Its 47mm titanium case exudes durability and style. It is available in popular color options like carbon gray DLC titanium with a black/translucent whitestone band, titanium with a whitestone/translucent amp yellow band, and soft gold titanium with a French gray/translucent indigo band.

Together, the Forerunner 570 and 970 offer a premium suite of tools that not only track performance but actively coach athletes toward smarter, more effective training, all with the durability Garmin is known for.

Forerunner 970 flashlight in use



Garmin HRM 600

Heart Rate Monitor **PHP 10,290**

GARMIN has introduced its most advanced heart rate monitor yet—the HRM 600—an essential companion for serious athletes looking to fine-tune their performance. Whether used on its own or paired with a compatible Garmin smartwatch, this next-generation chest strap monitor delivers real-time heart rate, HRV (heart rate variability), and running dynamics with remarkable accuracy.

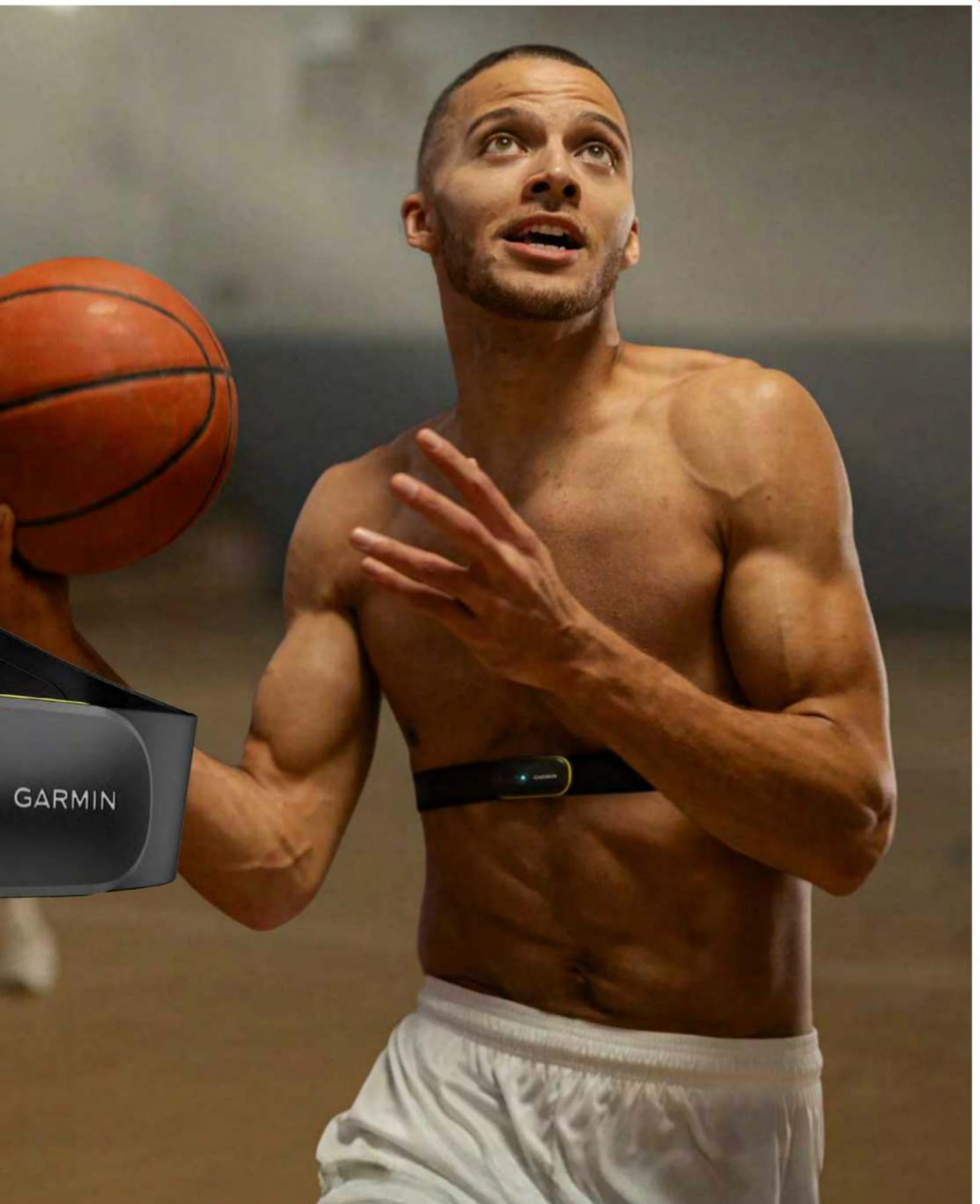
Designed for versatility, the HRM 600 features onboard activity recording, perfect for team sports or workouts where wearing a watch isn't feasible. It logs key metrics—heart rate, speed, distance, calories burned—and syncs seamlessly to the Garmin Connect app after your session.

One of the HRM 600's standout innovations is its expanded running dynamics, including step speed loss, which measures how much runners slow down upon foot strike—a valuable insight for improving form and efficiency. It also tracks stride length, ground contact time, and vertical oscillation when paired with select Garmin smartwatches.

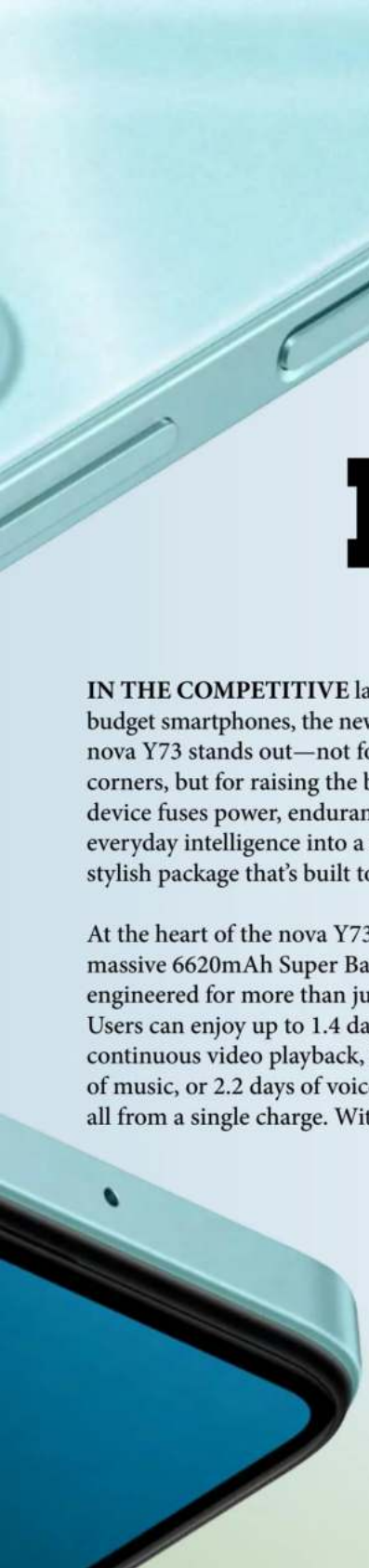
Its rechargeable battery offers up to 2 months of use per charge, and a button-activated LED light ensures easy pairing and status alerts. With two strap sizes (XS-S and M-XL), a removable module, and machine-washable fabric, the HRM 600 is built for comfort and convenience.

Whether you're training indoors, outdoors, or underwater, the Garmin HRM 600 delivers precision data and smart connectivity to elevate every workout. It's not just a monitor—it's a performance optimizer.









HUAWEI nova Y73

Smartphone

IN THE COMPETITIVE landscape of budget smartphones, the new HUAWEI nova Y73 stands out—not for cutting corners, but for raising the bar. This device fuses power, endurance, and everyday intelligence into a sleek, stylish package that's built to last.

At the heart of the nova Y73 is a massive 6620mAh Super Battery, engineered for more than just stamina. Users can enjoy up to 1.4 days of continuous video playback, 2.6 days of music, or 2.2 days of voice calls—all from a single charge. With 40W

HUAWEI SuperCharge Turbo, the phone juices up quickly too: just 10 minutes of charging can provide 5 hours of video playback.

The battery is designed for real-world challenges. It maintains performance in extreme temperatures, as low as -20°C, and is backed by AI Battery Saving technology and global battery safety certification. Whether you're traveling, binge-watching, or navigating a long commute, the nova Y73 is built to keep up.

While many phones sacrifice durability for design, the nova Y73 refuses to compromise. Its high-strength aluminum alloy chassis is paired with SGS 5-star certified 360° drop resistance, handling falls of up to 1.8 meters and pressure loads up to 65kg. Add in IP64-rated dust and water resistance, and you have a phone ready for daily wear and tear—from urban commutes to weekend hikes.

The build isn't just rugged—it's elegant. The Dynamic Plaid Texture on the back shimmers with light and shadow, while the Double Star Orbit Rings around the camera module lend a premium touch to its slim, modern silhouette.

The HUAWEI X-Button is a game-changer for usability, offering customizable single-click, double-click, and long-press shortcuts to favorite apps or essential tools. Whether it's launching your camera or activating One-Click Call, navigation is smoother and faster.

Another standout is the Infrared Smart Remote, which transforms the phone into a universal remote for air conditioners, TVs, and other home appliances—no extra hardware required.

Running on EMUI 12, the nova Y73 features enhanced Privacy and Security Centers, allowing granular control over app permissions, data access, and ad personalization. With a generous 256GB of internal storage, there's plenty of room for apps, files, photos, and videos.

Final Verdict: With its impressive battery life, tough-as-nails build, and intuitive smart features, the HUAWEI nova Y73 is more than just a budget-friendly smartphone—it's a capable everyday companion built for performance and peace of mind.

Kingston XS Series

External SSD

KINGSTON TECHNOLOGY, a long-standing leader in memory and storage solutions, has refreshed its XS Series External SSD lineup with a bold new look and performance to match. The update isn't just skin-deep—the series, now sporting Kingston's redhead mascot Rex and the "Built on Commitment" tagline, is a confident nod to the brand's nearly 40-year legacy in tech innovation.



Compact, powerful, and portable, the XS Series now includes the high-performance XS2000 alongside the versatile XS1000 and XS1000R models. Whether you're a media professional working on the go or a hybrid worker seeking fast and reliable storage, Kingston's new lineup delivers sleek solutions built for modern demands.

The flagship XS2000 is a pro-grade external SSD offering blazing transfer speeds of up to 2,000MB/s and capacities up to 4TB. Tailored for creators and videographers, it supports Apple's ProRes direct video recording and integrates seamlessly into mobile production workflows. With studio-

grade performance packed into a pocket-sized form, the XS2000 empowers professionals to edit, transfer, and store high-resolution content on the fly.

For users seeking reliable everyday storage, the XS1000 and XS1000R offer impressive performance in a more accessible package. Both models deliver read speeds of up to 1,050MB/s and capacities of up to 2TB, making them ideal for students, business travelers, and remote workers who need fast file transfers and dependable backups. Lightweight and sleek, they blend functionality with affordability—striking a balance between performance and everyday usability.



With this updated lineup, Kingston continues to set the standard in portable storage. The XS Series not only brings forward best-in-class performance and reliability, but also a renewed brand identity that underscores Kingston's focus on design, user needs, and long-term innovation.



POCO F7

Smartphone

PHP23,999 – 12GB+256GB

PHP25,999 – 12GB+512GB

POCO continues to push boundaries in the high-performance smartphone space with the launch of the POCO F7, a device that fuses cutting-edge power, pro-level photography, and design-forward aesthetics into an ultra-competitive package. Powered by Qualcomm's latest Snapdragon 8s Gen 4 Mobile Platform, the POCO F7 delivers flagship-level performance with style and substance.

At its core, the POCO F7 features an all-big-core CPU architecture, offering up to 30% improved performance over its predecessor. Benchmarking an AnTuTu score of over 2 million, the chipset is cooled by a massive 6000mm² Dual-Channel IceLoop system—POCO's largest and most efficient thermal solution to date—keeping performance stable during demanding tasks like gaming and video rendering.

Battery life matches the processing power, with a 6500mAh cell, the largest in the F Series, paired with 90W HyperCharge that takes it to 80% in just 30 minutes. The inclusion of 22.5W reverse charging adds extra utility, allowing the F7 to power up other devices when needed.

Designed to appeal to mobile gamers and content creators, the POCO F7 features WildBoost Optimization 4.0, enabling 120 FPS gaming, 1.5K Super Resolution, and Smart Frame Rate adjustments for smoother, more immersive gameplay. Connectivity is enhanced by the Surge

T1s signal tuner, which improves stability for mobile, Wi-Fi, and Bluetooth connections.

For creators, the POCO F7 is equipped with a 50MP Sony IMX882 main sensor with OIS, plus versatile focal lengths (26mm, 35mm, 52mm) that allow users to capture pro-style portraits with a realistic light spot blur. Tools like UltraSnap, Live Photo, AI Eraser, and AI Beautify provide an AI-enhanced photography experience with minimal post-processing effort.

Its 6.83-inch 1.5K ultra-bright display is built for both entertainment and eye comfort. With a 3200nit peak brightness, Sunlight Display 4.0, and TÜV Rheinland certifications for flicker-free and circadian-friendly viewing, the screen adapts to a variety of lighting and use scenarios. It also boasts 3840Hz PWM dimming and Wet Touch Display 2.0, maintaining precision even with damp fingers.

The F7's industrial-meets-cyberpunk design features a streamlined CNC-milled aluminum frame, a glass back, and a bold Cyber Silver Edition, which showcases the Snapdragon logo—symbolizing the synergy between raw power and futuristic form. With a 94.23% screen-to-body ratio, reinforced chassis, and IP68 dust and water resistance, the F7 is built for both performance and durability.

It is available in Black, White, and Cyber Silver.







realme C71

Smartphone

PHP5,499 – 4GB+64GB

PHP6,499 – 6GB+128GB

REALME is shaking up the budget smartphone segment once again with the release of the realme C71. This feature-rich device offers impressive hardware and thoughtful design at an accessible price point. With a massive 6300mAh battery, 45W SUPERVOOC fast charging, and a 50MP AI camera, the realme C71 proves that power and performance no longer need to come at a premium.

At the core of the C71 is its standout 6300mAh battery, one of the largest in its class. realme claims users can go up to two days on a single charge, with just one hour of charging time. Even a quick 37-minute top-up gets you to 50% thanks to the device's 45W SUPERVOOC technology. In a pinch, the C71 supports reverse charging, allowing it to function as a power bank for other devices.

The camera setup belies its budget-friendly roots. A 50MP AI main sensor delivers crisp, detailed shots, supported by AI-driven features like AI Eraser, which removes unwanted background elements, and AI Clear Face, which sharpens facial details for cleaner portraits and throwback photos. It's a compelling offering for Gen Z creatives who want quality content on the go without investing in premium gear.



realme has also paid close attention to durability and design. The C71 offers Military-Grade Shock Resistance, Daily Water Resistance, and a SonicWave Water Ejection system—a unique feature that uses sound vibrations to clear moisture from the speaker. These additions directly address real-world user concerns, such as accidental drops and water exposure, which are especially relevant for users in tropical markets like the Philippines.

Despite its large battery, the realme C71 maintains a slim 7.79mm profile and weighs just 196g, offering excellent

hand feel and portability. It's available in two elegant finishes—Forest Owl and White Swan—that reflect realme's trend-savvy aesthetic. Adding to its uniqueness is the Customizable Pulse Light, a circular LED on the back with six color options and two lighting modes that provide visual alerts for calls, notifications, and charging.

With a thoughtful blend of practicality, design, and smart features, the realme C71 stands out as one of the most well-rounded entry-level smartphones of the year—ideal for students, young professionals, and anyone seeking a stylish and reliable daily companion.

com.ph

PARADE

Samsung Galaxy Z Flip7

Smartphone

PHP70,990 – 12GB | 256GB

PHP78,990 – 12GB | 512GB

SAMSUNG'S GALAXY Z FLIP7 delivers an intelligent upgrade to its iconic clamshell design, pairing Galaxy AI with enhanced FlexWindow usability and a pro-grade camera—all in a form factor that fits in the palm of your hand.

Now featuring a 4.1-inch Super AMOLED FlexWindow, the Flip7 offers full edge-to-edge usability, a 120Hz refresh rate, and up to 2,600 nits brightness, making it the brightest and most functional cover screen on a Galaxy Z Flip yet. Users can reply to messages, check calendars, or snap selfies without ever opening the device.

Inside, the Flip7 is powered by the 3nm Exynos 2500 processor, optimized for Galaxy and supported by a 4,300mAh battery, the largest ever in a Flip device. That's enough for up

to 31 hours of video playback, and now includes support for Samsung DeX, transforming the phone into a compact productivity hub.

AI features shine through the upgraded FlexWindow. Gemini Live enables hands-free search and multitasking, while camera sharing allows for collaborative photography. The Flip7 also offers an enhanced selfie experience with its 50MP wide-angle and 12MP ultra-wide rear cameras, supported by Nightography, Real-Time Filters, a Zoom Slider, and Dual Preview modes, all accessible directly from the cover screen.

Built with Corning Gorilla Glass Victus 2 and featuring a re-engineered Armor FlexHinge, the Flip7 is Samsung's thinnest and most durable foldable device yet, weighing just 188 grams. It also marks a first for



foldables with advanced AI-enhanced mobile security, including quantum-resistant encryption and on-device AI protections via One UI 8.

Compact, capable, and creative, the Galaxy Z Flip7 is a celebration of what modern AI-powered smartphones can achieve in the smallest footprint yet.

It comes in Blue Shadow, Jetblack, Coralred, and Mint (online exclusive).







Samsung Galaxy Z Fold7

Smartphone

PHP112,990 – 12GB | 256GB

PHP120,990 – 12GB | 512GB

PHP130,990 – 16GB | 1TB

SAMSUNG pushes the limits of mobile innovation with the Galaxy Z Fold7, a sleek foldable that blends cutting-edge Galaxy AI, exceptional hardware, and an expansive display into its thinnest and lightest form yet. Weighing just 215 grams and measuring 8.9mm folded, the Fold7 is more compact than the Galaxy S25 Ultra, without compromising on power or capability.

The exterior features a 6.5-inch Dynamic AMOLED 2X cover screen with a new 21:9 aspect ratio, while the device unfolds into a stunning 8-inch main display—Samsung's largest yet—offering vibrant visuals, 2,600 nits of peak brightness, and true blacks even in direct sunlight.



Under the hood is the Snapdragon 8 Elite for Galaxy, boasting substantial performance boosts across CPU (38%), GPU (26%), and NPU (41%). Paired with Galaxy AI, the device offers advanced features like Gemini Live multimodal search, Circle to Search, and AI Results View, all optimized for the large display. A suite of creative tools, including Generative Edit, Audio Eraser, and Side-by-Side Editing, elevates mobile content creation to desktop-level sophistication.

Camera performance receives a major upgrade with the introduction of the first-ever 200MP wide-angle sensor in the Galaxy Z series. A triple-lens system (12MP Ultra-Wide, 10MP Telephoto with 3x zoom) supports advanced shooting features like Night Video and 10-bit HDR, while the 10MP internal camera enables hands-free group selfies with Flex Mode.

Durability is a standout feature. Samsung reinforces the Galaxy Z Fold7 with Armor FlexHinge, Corning Gorilla Glass Ceramic 2, and a Titanium plate-layered display with 50% thicker Ultra-Thin Glass, ensuring long-term resilience.

Running on One UI 8 with Android 16, the Fold7 delivers a seamless AI-powered experience that redefines how users interact with multitasking, content creation, and productivity on the go. This is not just a foldable—it's a pocket-sized powerhouse built for the future.

It comes in Blue Shadow, Silver Shadow, Jetblack, and Mint (online exclusive) color options.





Seagate Ultra Compact SSD

External SSD

PHP5,749 – 1TB

PHP10,499 – 2TB

SEAGATE has introduced its latest innovation in portable storage—the Seagate Ultra Compact SSD—delivering impressive speed and durability in a device not much larger than a key fob. Designed for users who need fast, reliable data transfer in a highly portable form factor, this drive proves that good things truly come in small packages.

Despite its minimal size, the Ultra Compact SSD delivers transfer speeds of up to 1,000MB/s, making it ideal for moving large files across devices. Whether you're offloading RAW photos, editing 4K video, or backing up your mobile workspace, the drive handles it all without breaking a sweat.

Built with mobility in mind, this SSD is IP54-rated for dust and water resistance, withstands drops of up to 3 meters, and comes with a removable rubber sleeve for extra protection—ideal for travelers, field photographers, or digital nomads. Adding to its environmental credibility, the device is constructed with 35% recycled materials by weight, aligning performance with sustainability.

One standout feature is its direct USB-C connectivity, allowing for true plug-and-play operation across a wide range of devices, including Windows, Mac, Android, iPhone, tablets, and even gaming consoles—no cables

required. It's as easy to carry as it is to use, thanks to its thumb-sized design and integrated key ring loop.

Available in 1TB and 2TB capacities, it offers flexible storage options for professionals and casual users alike.

Beyond hardware, the Ultra Compact SSD includes a suite of useful extras. The Seagate Toolkit simplifies backup and file sync tasks, while the bundled 6-month trial of Dropbox Backup and Mylio Photos+ helps users organize, protect, and enhance their digital content. It also comes with 3 years of Seagate Rescue Data Recovery Services and a 3-year limited warranty, offering peace of mind that your data is in good hands.

Whether you're looking for a stylish storage upgrade or a rugged drive that keeps up with your on-the-go lifestyle, the Seagate Ultra Compact SSD delivers a winning mix of portability, performance, and protection.





REVIEWED BY REN ALCANTARA

LENOVO LEGION GO S

HANDHELD GAMING PC



The promise of portable PC gaming has been around for ages, but the Lenovo Legion Go S gets very close to nailing the assignment. If you've ever wished you could cram your gaming PC into a tiny bag without too much compromise, this might be exactly what you're looking for.



DESIGN



The Legion Go S is compact, clean, but with reasonable heft at 730 grams, making it a travel-friendly gaming companion. Finished in Glacier White, it looks sleek without being too flashy. The ergonomic grips, front-firing speakers, and well-placed controls make it comfortable to use even during long gaming sessions. The layout will feel instantly familiar to gamers while maintaining a solid, premium feel that Lenovo's Legion line is known for.

HARDWARE



At the heart of the Legion Go S is AMD's new Ryzen Z2 GO processor, built on Zen 4 architecture paired with RDNA 3 graphics and a 4nm process. This means smoother gameplay, lower heat, and improved battery efficiency. AAA games like Elden Ring and Fortnite run well, while the Windows 11 environment ensures full anti-cheat compatibility, something SteamOS still struggles with. The Go S can be configured with up to 32GB of LPDDR5X memory,

providing fast, efficient multitasking, and the SSD is user-replaceable, which is a welcome feature in portable devices on the whole.

The Legion Go S packs an 8-inch WUXGA (1920x1200) 16:10 touch display, capable of a 120Hz refresh rate and hitting up to 500 nits of brightness with VRR support. It's bright, crisp, and buttery smooth, whether you're gaming, streaming, or just browsing the web. The touch interface is responsive, adding another layer of flexibility for both gaming and productivity.





USER EXPERIENCE



One of the standout aspects of the Legion Go S is its versatility. Our model ran Steam OS out of the box, and I have to admit that I didn't appreciate the streamlined, game-focused interface until I got my hands on this device. I'm honestly considering an install on my personal gaming handheld, and I apologize for all my previous Steam OS remarks.

Should you want something that's a little more skewed towards productivity, the device fully supports Windows 11 as well, so a quick install of that and you'll have a productivity machine that you can comfortably slip into a sling.

Thermal management is excellent, with air intake from the back and exhaust from the top, and users can toggle between performance modes in Legion Space: 40W for max power or Quiet Mode for longer sessions with less fan noise. Not that the fan was obnoxiously loud at full tilt. You can hear it, but it won't interfere with game sounds or music.

Controls and ergonomics are excellent, with Hall effect joysticks to prevent stick drift over time, and adjustable triggers to customize the control feel depending on your game. These are small but significant details that elevate the gaming experience.



in a way other devices in the market haven't managed yet.

The Legion Go S houses a 55.5Wh battery with Super Rapid Charge support, letting you juice up to 70 percent in just 30 minutes. Real-world use will, of course, depend on your performance mode and game, but the battery life holds up well, and your arms will almost certainly tire before your battery gives out.

VALUE



Starting at PHP39,995, the Legion Go S is a reasonably powerful yet relatively affordable entry into handheld gaming. For that price, you get a device that can potentially replace a bulkier gaming laptop, offering flexibility for those who need both work and play on the go.



BOTTOMLINE

If you want to take your gaming PC with you wherever you go while retaining the freedom to use it as a productivity device, the Lenovo Legion Go S is ready to be your next travel companion.

SPECIFICATIONS

Display: 8-inch 1920x1200 WUXGA 120Hz, 500 nits, VRR, touch-enabled
Processor: AMD Ryzen Z2 GO (Zen 4, RDNA 3, 4nm)
Memory: Up to 32GB LPDDR5X
Storage: User-replaceable SSD (512GB)
Battery: 55.5Wh with Super Rapid Charge
OS: SteamOS
Weight: 730g
Ports: 2x USB4, 3.5mm audio, microSD support
Extras: Legion Space, 3 months Xbox Game Pass Ultimate, Legion Ultimate Support

WHAT'S HOT

- ▶ Bright, smooth 8-inch 120Hz display
- ▶ GREAT performance on Steam OS
- ▶ Windows flexibility if needed
- ▶ Ergonomic design with Hall effect joysticks
- ▶ Rapid charging with a solid battery size

WHAT'S NOT

- ▶ Slightly on the large, heavy side
- ▶ Battery life depends heavily on power mode and game, but is sufficient

REVIEWED BY MARIBELLE ALBA

DYSON SUPERSONIC R

HAIR DRYER

I'm no stranger to Dyson's haircare lineup. I have the original Supersonic, the Airwrap, and the Corrale straightener, so I thought I had a pretty good idea of what to expect from this latest release. But the Dyson Supersonic r surprised me. Not just because of its radical new design, but because it finally feels like a hair dryer made for people like me: those of us with thick, coarse hair that takes forever to dry.

I've spent years trying to tame my hair into submission. Blow-drying used to be a 30-minute arm workout, followed by another 15 minutes of styling. So when Dyson claimed the Supersonic r could cut drying time and reduce heat damage, I had to put it to the test.



DESIGN



The first time I held the Supersonic r, I did a double take. It looks nothing like a traditional dryer. Instead of the usual barrel shape, it curves like the letter “r,” making it surprisingly ergonomic. Dyson says it’s 30% smaller and 20% lighter than the original Supersonic, and I immediately felt that difference. At just 325 grams, it’s incredibly light, and the curved handle makes it easier to reach the back of my head without twisting my wrist into weird angles.

The Supersonic r comes in a gorgeous matte ceramic pink finish with rose gold accents. Although I would have wanted the option to color-match it with my bright nickel and copper Airwrap. The oversized plug is also a bit of a nuisance, especially if your outlets are in tight spaces. However, that’s really nitpicking, and a very minor trade-off for the comfort and control the design offers.



HARDWARE



Inside this compact frame is Dyson’s Hyperdymium motor, spinning at 110,000RPM. That’s the same powerhouse tech found in their other styling tools, and it shows. The airflow is strong but controlled, and it doesn’t rely on scorching heat to get the job done. For someone like me, with hair that usually

takes 25–30 minutes to dry, this was a breakthrough.

The Supersonic r also features a new streamlined heater with ten foils that evenly distribute heat. To prevent heat damage, it constantly measures air temperature over 100 times per second. That’s a big deal for coarse hair like mine, which is already prone to dryness and breakage. There are four heat settings, three airflow speeds, and a cold shot button.





The Supersonic r can only be operated with one of the five RFID-enabled nozzles attached. These really blew me away (pun intended) as each one automatically adjusts the dryer's settings for a particular use. No need to stop and fiddle with the buttons.

Here's a quick rundown of the attachments that come in the box:

- Powerful air attachment – produces high-velocity airflow to dry hair fast
- Gentle air attachment – evenly diffuses airflow, produces cooler air that's gentler on the scalp
- Smoothing nozzle – delivers more ions to reduce frizz, giving hair a smooth natural finish
- Professional concentrator – focuses air for precise styling
- Flyaway attachment – attracts longer hair strands and hides flyaways

USER EXPERIENCE



Let me be honest: I didn't expect to love this dryer as much as I do. But after a week of daily use, I'm hooked. Drying my

hair now takes just 10 minutes, sometimes less. That's a huge improvement, and it means I'm more likely to actually style my hair instead of just pinning it back with a clawclip.

The Supersonic r is also noticeably quieter than other dryers I've used. I can still listen to music or catch up on a podcast while styling, which makes the whole process feel less like a chore.

The attachments are where Dyson's attention to detail really shines. First, I use the Powerful Air Attachment to quickly turn dripping wet hair into ready-to-style, almost dry strands. I then switch to the Gentle Air Attachment to get closer to the roots without hurting my scalp. Then, I use the Flyaway Attachment to smooth out some of the frizz and finally finish with the Smoothing Nozzle to add extra ions that keep my hair shiny.



VALUE



Let's talk about the elephant in the room: the price. At PHP37,900, the Supersonic r is a serious investment. But with my thick, coarse hair that takes ages to dry (let alone style), it's a price I'm willing to pay for the time, convenience, and results.

That said, I do wish the storage case had been customized with slots for the dryer and attachments. I also wish it came with a handy travel pouch. Just nice little add-ons to add perceived value. But again, these are minor gripes.

Overall, its performance, design, and thoughtful features make it feel like a luxury that's actually practical.

BOTTOMLINE

The Dyson Supersonic r reimagines what a hair dryer can be. It's light, powerful, smart, and genuinely enjoyable to use. For someone like me, who's spent years battling thick, unruly hair, it's a total game-changer. If you've been on the fence about investing in high-end hair tech, this might be the one that finally convinces you.



SPECIFICATIONS

Weight: 325 grams
Motor: Hyperdymium, 110,000RPM
Heat Settings: 4
Airflow Speeds: 3
Attachments: RFID-enabled

WHAT'S HOT

- ▶ Lightweight and ergonomic design
- ▶ Fast drying time
- ▶ Smart attachments with automatic settings
- ▶ Reduced heat damage
- ▶ Quiet operation

WHAT'S NOT

- ▶ High price point
- ▶ Oversized plug

REVIEWED BY PHIA MANUELL LAYOSO

XIAOMI SMART BAND 10

SMARTWATCH



If you're looking for a smartwatch that keeps up with your health goals, looks good on your wrist, and doesn't need constant charging—or a big budget—the **Xiaomi Smart Band 10** might be just what you need. Designed for students, young professionals, and anyone curious about wearable tech, this smart band offers daily fitness tracking, long battery life, and plenty of customization in a sleek, lightweight package.

I've worn it for a few days now—from work to walks—and here's what it's really like.

DESIGN



The first thing I noticed was how clean and minimal it looks. It's lightweight and comfortable, so wearing it all day doesn't feel tight or bulky. The screen blends nicely with the band, giving it a polished, modern look. I got the rose color, and it looks elegant and fresh on my wrist.

One of the fun parts? You can choose from over 200 watch faces using the Mi Fitness app. Whether you want something simple, animated, or playful, there's a design for every mood, allowing you to add a personal touch to your day. It's a small detail, but it makes the band feel more like an extension of your personality.

HARDWARE



For such a slim device, the Smart Band 10 packs in a lot. The 1.72-inch AMOLED display is bright and colorful, with a 60Hz refresh rate that makes swiping and tapping feel smooth and responsive. It's easy to read messages, icons, and even animated watch faces.

It connects via Bluetooth 5.4, and syncing with my iPhone through the Mi Fitness app was quick and easy. It also works with Android phones running Android 8.0 or higher. The connection stays stable, and I haven't had any issues with lag or dropped sync.

The 233mAh battery might sound small, but it lasts surprisingly long: up to 21 days on typical use. Charging is simple with the magnetic charger, and it takes about an hour to fully charge. No ports, no hassle—just snap it on and go.

It's also 5ATM water-resistant, so I didn't have to worry about splashes or washing my hands while wearing it. I haven't tried swimming with it, but for everyday use, it feels durable and safe.





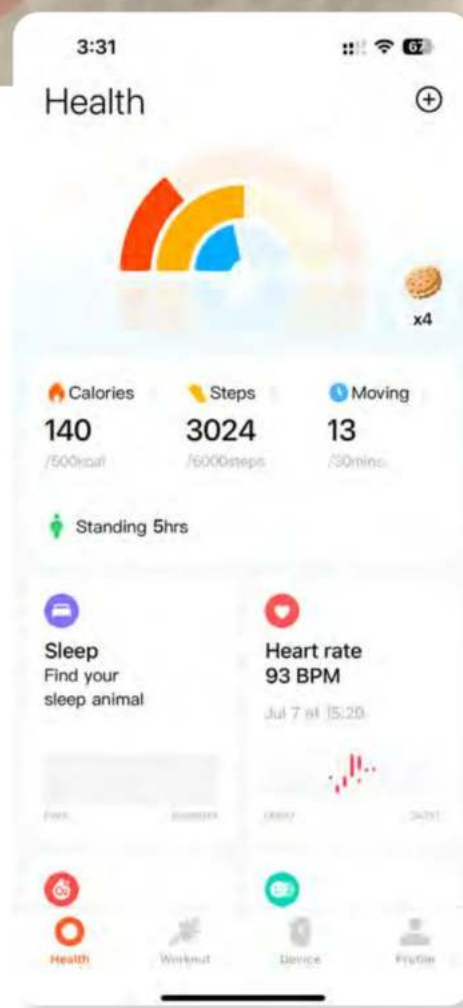
USER EXPERIENCE



As someone new to smartwatches, I found the Smart Band 10 easy to use. It tracks steps, heart rate, and sleep automatically, with no extra setup needed. You don't need internet for the basic features, and even when my phone isn't nearby, the band keeps tracking and syncs later via Bluetooth.

For things like notifications, music control, camera remote, or GPS navigation, you'll need your phone connected. But for everyday tracking, the band works independently, which is great when you're on the move and don't want to carry your phone around.

The interface is simple and intuitive. Swiping through menus feels natural, and the icons are easy to understand. I especially liked how the sleep tracker gave me insights into my rest patterns without needing to dig through complicated data.





VALUE



At PHP2,499 (or PHP2,999 for the Ceramic Edition), it's a solid deal. You get a lot of features without spending a fortune. I wasn't sure what to expect

at first, but now I get why people love wearing smartwatches.

Compared to more expensive options, the Smart Band 10 holds its own. It doesn't have advanced features like ECG or voice assistants, but for everyday wellness and convenience, it's more than enough.



BOTTOMLINE

The Xiaomi Smart Band 10 showed me that smartwatches don't have to be expensive to be useful. It's stylish, lasts long, and helps me stay on top of my health, even without being online all the time. If you're thinking about getting your first smartwatch or just want something simple and reliable, this one's worth checking out.

More than just a gadget, it's a helpful companion that fits into your daily routine without demanding too much attention.

SPECIFICATIONS

Display: 1.72" AMOLED, 60Hz refresh rate, 1500 nits brightness

Battery: 233mAh, charges in ~1 hour, lasts up to 21 days

Charging: Magnetic

Water Resistance: 5ATM

Bluetooth: 5.4

Compatibility: Android 8.0+ / iOS 12.0+

App: Mi Fitness

Extras:

- 200+ watch faces
- Step counter, heart rate monitor, sleep tracker
- Music and camera control (with phone)
- 150+ sport modes

WHAT'S HOT

- ▶ Bright, clear screen
- ▶ Lots of watch faces
- ▶ Water-resistant
- ▶ Works offline
- ▶ Fast magnetic charging

WHAT'S NOT

- ▶ Screen might feel small



EXPERIENCE SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY WITH **TOYOTA** **ELECTRIFIED VEHICLES**



Toyota has always been ahead of the curve when it comes to innovation. Since 1989, Toyota Motor Philippines has been developing cutting-edge automotive technologies, bringing world-class vehicles to Filipino roads. Now in 2025, TMP continues to lead the way with a full lineup of electrified vehicles built to meet the needs of every driver.

Toyota's hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) deliver the perfect balance of power and efficiency. Their self-charging hybrid system is ideal for Filipinos looking to reduce fuel expenses and carbon emissions, all without the need for charging stations. Whether you're buying your first car or upgrading to a smarter, cleaner ride, Toyota has a hybrid for you.



Yaris Cross HEV

A Smart Start for First-Time Owners

Designed for first-time car buyers, the [Yaris Cross HEV](#) is a subcompact crossover that blends sporty styling with advanced hybrid technology. Since its debut in 2023, it has quickly gained traction for its mix of practicality and fun, capturing the attention of young professionals and first-time owners alike.

It's powered by a 1.5-liter 4-cylinder engine paired with Toyota's hybrid system, offering four intuitive drive modes: Eco, Normal, Sport, and EV. In EV mode, the vehicle operates solely on battery power for short trips, allowing for quiet, emission-free drives and remarkable fuel efficiency—perfect for navigating Metro Manila's busy streets.

Inside, the Yaris Cross HEV surprises with its upscale features, including leather seats, a panoramic sunroof, and a spacious, thoughtfully designed cabin. The infotainment system is responsive and user-friendly, offering seamless



connectivity through Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Practicality meets innovation with features like a powered tailgate equipped with a kick sensor, making loading and unloading effortless.

Equipped with Toyota Safety Sense, the Yaris Cross HEV ensures peace of mind with advanced safety features like lane departure alert, adaptive cruise control, and pre-collision systems. Compact yet capable, it's an ideal companion for those just starting their journey on the road.

Corolla Cross HEV

Hybrid Versatility for Daily Driving

The **Corolla Cross HEV** is Toyota's top-selling hybrid in the Philippines, striking a perfect balance between affordability, practicality, and innovation. This compact SUV has become a familiar sight on city streets and highways, praised for its refined ride and fuel-sipping performance.

At the core of the Corolla Cross HEV is a 1.8-liter 4-cylinder engine mated to Toyota's hybrid system, producing a total output of 122PS and 142Nm of torque. With four drive modes—Eco, Normal, Sport, and EV—it adapts effortlessly to any driving scenario. Whether you're navigating urban traffic or cruising on provincial roads, the Corolla Cross delivers smooth, responsive performance with minimal fuel consumption.

Available in G HEV, V HEV, and the top-tier GR-S HEV variant, there's a model for every lifestyle. The GR-S HEV variant adds sporty flair and enhanced suspension tuning inspired by Toyota Gazoo Racing, appealing to drivers who want a more dynamic look and feel.

Inside, the cabin is modern and well-appointed, featuring wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, a large touchscreen infotainment display, and ample space for passengers and cargo. Toyota Safety Sense brings driver assistance technologies like lane tracing assist, adaptive cruise control, and automatic high beams, making each journey more secure and enjoyable.

As a full-hybrid vehicle, the Corolla Cross HEV eliminates range anxiety while helping you beat rising fuel prices. It is perfect for daily commutes, road trips, and everything in between.



Corolla Altis GR-S HEV

An Icon Reinvented

A staple on Philippine roads since 2008, the Corolla Altis is known for its timeless design and dependable performance. The [Corolla Altis GR-S HEV](#) variant brings this icon into the modern age, combining Toyota's renowned hybrid technology with racing-inspired design cues.

Beneath the hood is a 1.8-liter hybrid engine delivering 122PS and 142Nm of torque, providing a refined yet engaging driving experience. The electric motor enhances throttle response and fuel economy, especially during stop-and-go traffic. Toyota's GR-S enhancements extend to the suspension and styling, giving the Altis a sharper, more athletic character.

Step inside and you'll find premium features like a 12-inch infotainment display, seamless smartphone integration, and high-quality finishes throughout the cabin. Toyota Safety

Sense comes standard, offering cutting-edge safety systems including pre-collision warning, lane departure alert, and dynamic radar cruise control.

The Corolla Altis GR-S HEV is perfect for professionals who want a sedan that delivers on performance, comfort, and fuel efficiency without compromising on style.





RAV4 HEV

Rugged, Refined, and Ready for Adventure

For those with a taste for adventure, the [RAV4 HEV](#) is the perfect companion. A pioneer in the crossover segment, the RAV4 continues to evolve with its hybrid powertrain, offering powerful performance, cutting-edge tech, and the rugged dependability drivers have come to expect.



Powered by a 2.5-liter 4-cylinder engine and Toyota's hybrid system, the RAV4 HEV delivers 178PS and 221Nm of torque.

Inside, the RAV4 HEV blends functionality with comfort. The infotainment system supports Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, while features like a powered tailgate with kick sensor and dual-zone climate control enhance day-to-day usability. Toyota Safety Sense is also on board, offering tools like lane keeping assist and pre-collision safety features.

Whether you're heading out on a road trip or simply navigating your daily routine, the RAV4 HEV is designed to deliver versatility, fuel efficiency, and peace of mind in one stylish package.



Zenix HEV

The Ultimate Family Mover

With the introduction of the top of the line [Zenix HEV](#), Toyota redefines the multi-purpose vehicle, integrating hybrid performance with refined comfort for the entire family.

The Zenix HEV is powered by a 2.0-liter 4-cylinder gasoline engine combined with Toyota's hybrid system, generating a robust 186PS and 188Nm of torque. Its monocoque platform and electric power steering provide car-like handling, enhancing ride quality and reducing road noise.

Inside, second-row passengers are treated to luxurious captain seats with two-tone leather upholstery and powered ottomans—features more commonly found in premium SUVs. Up front, the driver benefits from leather seating, a fully digital instrument cluster, and an advanced



infotainment system for seamless entertainment and navigation.

Equipped with Toyota Safety Sense, the Zenix HEV delivers the safety and reliability Filipino families have come to trust. Whether for school runs, family vacations, or weekend getaways, this MPV makes every journey smooth and enjoyable.

CAMRY HEV

Hybrid Elegance for the Executive

The Camry has long been a symbol of executive sophistication. The new [Toyota Camry HEV](#) elevates that image with hybrid performance and luxury appointments tailored for discerning drivers.

Its 2.5-liter engine and electric motor produce a combined 230PS, making it one of the most powerful hybrids in Toyota's lineup. The hybrid

system provides seamless power delivery and improved fuel economy—ideal for both city cruising and highway drives.

Inside, the Camry HEV boasts ventilated leather seats, a spacious cabin, and a sleek 12.3-inch infotainment display with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Rear passengers enjoy seat controls for added comfort, while a JBL 9-speaker sound system offers a premium listening experience.

Toyota Safety Sense 3.0 ensures peace of mind with features like road sign assist, dynamic radar cruise control, and lane tracing assist. The Camry HEV is luxury turned into reality, designed for those who demand excellence, combining the comfort of a premium sedan with the benefits of hybrid technology.



Alphard HEV

First-Class Travel Redefined

Toyota's flagship luxury van, the [Alphard HEV](#), is the epitome of comfort and elegance. As the first hybrid van in its class, it delivers a new standard for executive transport and luxury family travel.

Its 2.5-liter hybrid powertrain produces 250PS, combining 233Nm of torque from the gasoline engine and 270Nm from the electric motor. The result is a refined and powerful ride that remains whisper-quiet, even in city traffic.



The Alphard HEV's interior is a sanctuary of comfort, featuring premium captain's chairs with powered ottomans, reclining functionality, and built-in massage features. A 15-speaker JBL sound system elevates in-car entertainment, making every ride an experience in itself.

Whether you're shuttling VIPs or enjoying a weekend retreat with the family, the Alphard HEV offers unmatched refinement and innovation, redefining what it means to travel in luxury.



Find Your Toyota Hybrid

Toyota's wide lineup of [electrified vehicle](#) offers something for everyone, whether you're buying your first car, growing your family, or elevating your daily commute. With unmatched reliability, advanced safety, and the fuel savings of a hybrid, these vehicles are ready to move with you.

Visit <https://toyota.com.ph/electrified> or inquire at your nearest Toyota dealership to learn more about how you can contribute to a carbon-neutral future, today.





HYUNDAI KONA HYBRID

Style and Substance Reimagined

Hyundai Motor Philippines marked its third anniversary with more than just a celebration; it introduced a bold new chapter in hybrid motoring with the launch of the all-new Hyundai KONA Hybrid, signaling the return of a fan favorite—now sharper, smarter, and greener than ever.



First launched globally in 2017 and introduced to the Philippine market a year later, the KONA has earned a solid reputation for its edgy looks and reliable performance. The second-generation model builds on that legacy, now infused with forward-thinking design and a hybrid powertrain that matches modern lifestyles.

From the outside, the all-new KONA Hybrid is a visual standout. Hyundai's signature LED horizon lamp spans its aerodynamic front fascia, while two-tone 18-inch alloy wheels, bold wheel arch cladding, roof rails, and a power sunroof give the Premium variant a

rugged, upscale presence that blends well in both city streets and weekend getaways.

Powertrain Meets Practicality

Beneath the sleek exterior is a 1.6-liter hybrid engine mated to a 6-speed Dual Clutch Transmission, generating 141Ps and 144Nm of torque. Efficiency meets dynamism with Smart Regenerative Braking and e-Motion Drive, technologies designed to make stop-and-go driving feel seamless and responsive.

Inside, the cabin feels like a personal cockpit. A floating 12.3-inch dual screen

cluster anchors the dash, paired with a shift-by-wire system, an 8-way power driver's seat, and seamless smartphone integration via wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. A wireless charging pad with a built-in cooling fan and multiple USB-C ports add to the convenience.





Beyond tech, the KONA makes space work smarter. Fold-flat rear seats and rotating cup holders open up to 1,241 liters of cargo space, while a programmable Smart Power Tailgate tailors functionality to your lifestyle.

Safety, Elevated

Hyundai SmartSense enhances peace of mind with features like Smart Cruise Control with Stop & Go, Forward Collision Avoidance Assist, and Lane Keeping Assist. For the Premium variant, add-ons like a Blind Spot View Monitor and Surround View Monitor elevate driver confidence further, especially in tight urban environments.

A Sharper, Smarter SUV for Today

The KONA Hybrid expands Hyundai's local green lineup alongside the SANTA FE, TUCSON, and ELANTRA. It's available in two trims:



- KONA 1.6 HEV GLS 6DCT – PHP 1,528,000
- KONA 1.6 HEV Premium 6DCT – PHP 1,688,000

Color options include Neoteric Yellow, Atlas White, Abyss Black Pearl, Cyber Gray, and Meta Blue Pearl.

Whether you're upgrading your ride or joining the hybrid movement, the new KONA Hybrid blends performance, practicality, and design into one compelling package. Drop by your nearest Hyundai dealership and see why this urban SUV is ready to take the spotlight: Again.



THE ALL-NEW MG ZS

Everyday Power, Global Polish

MG Motor Philippines has unveiled the all-new MG ZS, a fully reengineered version of its best-selling compact SUV. With upgraded styling, expanded proportions, and more advanced technology across the board, the new ZS lineup is poised to turn heads and elevate everyday drives.







The latest iteration is built on MG's new global design philosophy. From the aggressive "Connected Hunter Eyes" LED headlamps to the bolder stance and sleeker profile, the ZS is now longer, wider, and more refined. Measuring 4,430mm in length, 1,818mm in width, and 1,635mm in height, with a stretched 2,610mm wheelbase, this SUV feels more planted on the road and roomier inside.

MG offers the all-new ZS in four carefully crafted variants to suit a wide range of lifestyles and driving needs. Whether you're into hybrid efficiency,

spirited performance, practical luxury, or solid essentials, there's a ZS designed just for you.

MG ZS Hybrid+: The Smartest ZS Yet

The ZS Hybrid+ is the most advanced variant in the lineup, aimed at eco-conscious and tech-savvy drivers. It pairs a 1.5-liter 4-cylinder engine with a 1.83kWh battery and a 100kW electric motor, delivering a combined output of 197PS. This hybrid setup offers a smooth, efficient drive that's ready for both city streets and long stretches.

What sets this model apart is MG PILOT, the brand's intelligent driver assist system. Features include Adaptive Cruise Control, Active Emergency Braking with Pedestrian and Bicycle Detection, and Lane Keep Assist. These add layers of safety and sophistication to the drive.

Inside, the cabin feels futuristic and premium. The 12.3-inch infotainment

touchscreen anchors the dash, while the 6-way power-adjustable driver seat and lumbar support ensure comfort. Other highlights include leather seats, automatic single-zone climate control, a panoramic sunroof, and stylish 18-inch alloy wheels.

MG ZS Sport: Turbocharged for the Enthusiast

For those who crave performance and punch, the ZS Sport delivers the most exciting ride in the family. It runs on a 1.5-liter turbocharged engine that pushes out 170PS and 275Nm of torque, mated to a high-performance CVT280 transmission. The result is quick throttle response and dynamic acceleration, ideal for spirited urban driving or open-road bursts.

The ZS Sport mirrors the top-tier Hybrid+ in terms of premium features. You get the same 12.3-inch infotainment system, 6-way power seat with lumbar adjustment, and bold 18-



inch alloy wheels. It's the variant that brings power and polish together in one aggressive package.

MG ZS Luxury: Balanced Comfort and Features

The ZS Luxury caters to those who value a mix of refinement, practicality, and affordability. Powered by a 1.5-liter naturally aspirated engine and matched with a CVT180 transmission, this variant delivers reliable daily performance while maintaining good fuel economy.

This model includes a 10.25-inch infotainment touchscreen, 7-inch TFT gauges, and leather seats. The driver's seat is power-adjustable, and rear passengers benefit from dedicated AC vents. Safety is well covered too, with LED headlamps, front and side airbags, and a reverse camera included.

The ZS Luxury is an ideal choice for drivers looking for an elevated experience without stretching their budget.

MG ZS Comfort: Your Gateway to the SUV Life

Perfect for first-time SUV owners or practical-minded buyers, the ZS Comfort is designed to offer more than the essentials. It uses the same 1.5-liter engine and CVT180 setup as the Luxury variant, providing fuel-efficient, dependable performance for everyday use.

Despite being the entry-level trim, it's impressively equipped. A 10.25-inch infotainment screen with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto comes standard, along with 16-inch alloy wheels, dual airbags, cruise control, Hill Start Assist, Tire Pressure Monitoring System, and a reverse camera. The rear seats fold in a 60:40 split to expand cargo space as needed.

ZS Comfort proves that entry-level doesn't have to mean basic.

Introductory Pricing

Available at special launch prices until July 31, 2025, the all-new MG ZS is

competitively positioned across all trims:

- ZS Hybrid+: PHP 1,328,888 (Intro price: PHP 1,248,888)
- ZS Sport: PHP 1,198,888 (Intro price: PHP 1,148,888)
- ZS Luxury: PHP 1,088,888 (Intro price: PHP 1,048,888)
- ZS Comfort: PHP 948,888 (Intro price: PHP 908,888)

Whether your priority is smart driving tech, turbocharged performance, daily practicality, or first-car affordability, the all-new MG ZS offers an elevated experience tailored for today's discerning driver. This is not just a redesign; it's a redefinition of what an everyday SUV can be.



Mercedes-Benz V-Class Elegance

Designed for business and family travel

Mercedes-Benz continues to redefine everyday travel with the introduction of the Mercedes-Benz V220d Elegance. This premium upgrade enhances the iconic V-Class with refined styling and practical sophistication tailored for modern family lifestyles and executive mobility.

The V-Class Elegance Package is thoughtfully designed to meet the evolving needs of those who seek more than just transportation. It offers a seamless blend of comfort, style, and versatility. At the forefront of its design enhancements are the striking 18-inch Elegance Wheels, delivering not only a commanding presence on the road but also a smoother, more composed ride. These wheels enhance the vehicle's dynamic stance, whether navigating the city or embarking on a weekend escape.

Adding to its elevated exterior are the Elegance grille, bumper, and hood chrome inserts, a subtle yet distinctive touch that

underscores the V-Class' luxury appeal and attention to craftsmanship. Together, these enhancements present a more polished and commanding expression of the vehicle's iconic silhouette.

Inside, the V-Class Elegance transforms everyday drives into first-class journeys. The spacious cabin is outfitted with luxurious seats, offering comfort and support for both the driver and passengers. Designed with flexibility in mind, the interior easily adapts to a variety of needs from school drop-offs to weekend vacations, thanks to configurable seating and generous luggage space.

Safety and comfort are always top priorities. The V-Class is equipped with intelligent driver assistance systems and safety features that offer peace of mind for every trip. Whether navigating the morning school run or heading out of town for quality family time, the V-Class



ensures that every journey is as secure as it is enjoyable. Ambient lighting and meticulous interior finishes enhance the sense of relaxation and refinement, making the V-Class a sanctuary on wheels.

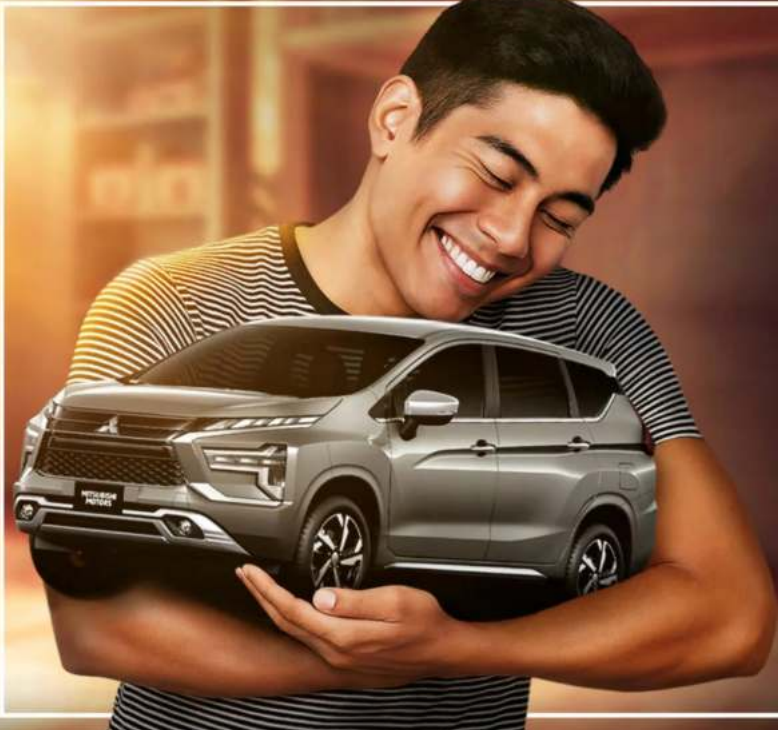
With the V-Class Elegance, Mercedes-Benz invites you to experience the perfect harmony of luxury, function, and everyday practicality, thoughtfully crafted for those who move with purpose, passion, and presence.

Introductory price for the Mercedes-Benz V 220d Elegance starts at PHP5,290,000.



Mitsubishi Prepaid Maintenance Parts Package

Elevating Ownership, Convenience, and Value



— CAR CARE TODAY. —
**CAREFREE
TOMORROW.**

Invest in worry-free car care and get your
Prepaid Maintenance Parts Package.



**MITSUBISHI MOTORS
CARES**
Our commitment to better service quality

In a bold move to redefine automotive aftersales service, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corporation (MMPC) introduces its Prepaid Maintenance Parts Package (PMP Package)—a pioneering initiative designed to streamline car care while optimizing long-term vehicle value. Now available nationwide, the PMP Package marks a significant enhancement to MMPC's customer-centric Mitsubishi Motors Cares Program.

Future-Proofing Car Maintenance

With this program, MMPC empowers vehicle owners to take control of their maintenance expenses through advanced payment options at discounted rates. Whether at the point of sale or during early service milestones—up to the 10,000km PMS—customers can lock in savings and secure uninterrupted care.

Three bespoke PMP Package tiers cater to a range of needs:

Plan	Coverage	Parts Discount
Standard	1 year	15%
Premium	2 years	20%
Elite	3 years	25%

Each package ensures access to Mitsubishi Motors Genuine Parts, safeguarding optimal performance and vehicle integrity.

Benefits That Go Beyond the Drive

- **Price Protect Advantage:** Insulates customers from future parts and service price increases.
- **Enhanced Resale Value:** Supports full-service history for better resale positioning.
- **Streamlined Servicing:** Seamlessly integrated with the Mitsubishi Motors 360 Connect App, allowing

parts to be prepared ahead of scheduled visits.

“Our Prepaid Maintenance Parts Package offers a smart and practical approach to ownership, providing peace of mind and measurable value. By offering this across our dealership network, we affirm our long-standing commitment to customer satisfaction,” shared MMPC EVP for aftersales, Toko Imai.

For complete plan details and personalized pricing, customers are encouraged to visit their trusted Mitsubishi dealership or explore www.mitsubishi-motors.com.ph.

Honda Certified Pre-Owned C2C Platform

Unlocking trust in the pre-owned market with a customer-to-customer platform

When it comes to buying or selling a used car, trust is everything. You scroll through countless listings, dodge questionable sellers and third-party agents, and cross your fingers that the vehicle you settle on is as described. Honda Cars Philippines, Inc. (HCPI) recognized these familiar hurdles and set out to remove them. The result is Honda Certified Pre-Owned, a first-of-its-kind customer-to-customer (C2C)

platform that empowers owners to list their pre-loved Honda vehicles directly to buyers, all under the watchful eye of Honda's own certification process.

Rethinking the Pre-Owned Experience

In a market often dominated by ads and online marketplaces, HCPI's new site (certifiedcars.hondaphil.com)

arrives as a breath of fresh air. Rather than relying on third-party platforms rife with unverified claims and hidden fees, Honda Certified Pre-Owned brings the entire transaction under one roof. Sellers gain immediate credibility by earning official certifications; buyers gain peace of mind knowing rigorous quality checks back every listing.



The Power of Certification

Only Honda vehicles that complete either of these rigorous certification tracks may be listed:

Certification Program	Criteria	Key Advantage
Verified Care	Minimum one Periodic Maintenance Service (PMS) visit per year, over 3 years	Demonstrates consistent upkeep; eligible in year three
Certified Plus	288-point inspection, genuine Honda parts and lubricants, Quality Certification	Assures like-new condition and full technical validation

Vehicles earn their Verified Care badge in the third year of maintenance, while Certified Plus is available upon completion of the inspection and repairs at any Luzon and Metro Manila dealership (with Visayas and Mindanao soon to follow). Each certification is displayed prominently on the listing, giving buyers instant insight into a car's history and condition.

By integrating service scheduling and certification into one digital ecosystem, Honda elevates the used-car experience to a new standard of convenience.

More Than Just a Sale: Rewarding Every Transaction

Honda isn't stopping at reassuring quality. To further sweeten the deal,

HCPI offers exclusive vouchers for both parties once a transaction closes:

- **Sellers** receive a New Car Purchase voucher, which can be stacked on existing sales promotions at any Honda dealership.
- **Buyers** walk away with a Periodic Maintenance Service voucher—perfect for keeping their newly acquired ride in top form.

These incentives underscore Honda's commitment to an ongoing relationship with drivers, not just a one-off sale.

Ready to List or Buy?

Visit certifiedcars.hondaphil.com to explore pre-owned Hondas or register your own. For hands-on assistance, drop by your nearest Honda Cars dealership—where every certified journey begins and ends with confidence.

The screenshot displays the Honda Certified Pre-Owned website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: HOME, ABOUT US, LISTING, CERTIFICATION, INSIGHTS, CONTACT, and HONDA NEW CARS. A 'LOGIN/REGISTER' button is on the right. Below the navigation bar is a banner image of several Honda cars with the word 'Listings' overlaid. The main section is titled 'Find Your Perfect Honda Certified Pre-Owned Car'. It features a 'FILTER SELECTION' sidebar on the left with dropdown menus for Certification Type (Verified Care), Model (Select model type), Year (Select year), Mileage (Select mileage range), and Price Range. A search bar is on the right with a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, it says 'Showing results 1 to 3 of total 3'. The first result is a 2019 Honda Accord, shown with a photo, a heart icon, and a 'Verified Care' badge. The car's details are listed: ACCORD 2019, ACCORD 2.4S NAVI AT, 31,000 KM, GASOLINE, AT, and 2019. The price is listed as ₱1,390,000. There are buttons for 'View Details', 'COMPARE', and 'SHARE THIS'. A red button at the bottom right says 'Got questions? Click Here.'.





YAMAHA DAY 2025

Bridging Legacy and Tomorrow Through Kando

Yamaha Motor Philippines celebrates Yamaha Day 2025, marking a historic milestone of 70 years of *Kando*. In a literal sense, Kando is a feeling of deep satisfaction and intense excitement that arises when encountering something of exceptional value, quality, or performance. But in Yamaha, it's a way of life, more than just a creative compass; it's a commitment that powers every engine, every note, every wave, and every breakthrough of Yamaha globally. If you've ever felt excited the moment you rev the motorcycle, proud of its style, or confident in its performance, that's Kando in action.



YMPH's celebration of Yamaha Global's 70-year journey is more than a company story; it's a shared experience with every customer who chooses to ride with the brand. Under this year's theme, "Bridging Legacy and Tomorrow Through Kando," Yamaha Day Philippines gathered thousands of its employees to rediscover the brand through a series of immersive activities held at the Malarayat Golf and Country Club, Batangas.

More than a celebration, the event's message goes far beyond the venue; it is a reminder of what lies at the heart of everything Yamaha stands for: to deliver the next Kando action to customers.

Honoring 70 years of Yamaha and its origin that redefines today

From the Red Dragonfly to Global Legends, Yamaha has been committed to enriching lives through innovation. The story began in July 1955, when a fearless team dared to build a motorcycle that would go on to defy expectations. That machine was the YA1, nicknamed Akitombo or the Red Dragonfly. Compared with most all-black motorcycle designs before, it offered an unconventional aesthetic to the market with a novel two-tone

color scheme with cream and a reddish-brown reminiscent of the chestnut coat of a fine horse. But YA1 is more than just its beauty; its performance stirred the market's interest as it conquered the grueling Mt. Fuji Ascent Race. The victory was the spark that lit the flame of Yamaha Motor.

Seventy years later, that same daring spirit fuels Yamaha Motor's global journey—from land to sea (motorcycles and marine), through sound and beyond (music and robotics).

Yamaha Day in the Philippines: Real Sparks within everyone

Fast forward to now, YMPH has brought together its employees to connect generations to the brand's core. The event bridges the old and the new, allowing long-time employees to rediscover the essence of Kando while

inviting the younger generation to discover it for the first time.

Starting the celebration, employees across all departments came together in an iconic display of unified passion by forming a human Yamaha 70th logo. Captured from above by an aerial drone, the formation showcased how individual sparks collectively create something truly meaningful. Throughout the day, they got to relive the brand history with an immersive Kando Journey walk, and each post carries a legacy that happened every decade. After that, there's a Kando wall setup that brought out their freedom to express their thoughts. On top of it all, they also experience the thrill of Yamaha engineering through motorcycle test ride activities, reflecting Yamaha's belief that exceptional customer experiences begin with a team that believes in what they create.





The next Kando action is a spark worth chasing

From a vision to create something beyond imagination to redefine the future of mobility and music, Yamaha's story is written in grit, passion, and creativity. Yamaha Day 2025 is a moment to honor the past, embrace the present, and build what comes next—together. Legacy helps another chapter to be stronger than ever, and

now, the next Kando action begins with its people carrying the real sparks ignited 70 years ago. This goes to show that every Yamaha employee carries the same riding reasons you do—to explore, to express, to experience. YMPH

continues to ride forward, pursuing the next exceptional experiences for the Filipino riding community.

The next Kando action begins now. And it begins with you.

Stay updated by following the Yamaha socials:

WEBSITE: <https://www.yamaha-motor.com.ph/index.html>

RACING: <https://www.facebook.com/yamaharacingph>

INSTAGRAM: <https://www.instagram.com/yamahaphilippines/>

YOUTUBE: <https://www.youtube.com/yamahaph>

TIKTOK: <https://www.tiktok.com/yamahaph>

TWITTER: https://x.com/yamaha_ph





Yamaha Philippines Racing Team Bounce Back with Standout Results at ARRC Japan Round

After a challenging round in Sepang, the Yamaha Philippines Racing Team riders returned to the FIM Asia Road Racing Championship with renewed determination and delivered results that turned heads for all the right reasons. McKinley Kyle Paz, April King Mascardo, and EJ Sobretudo showcased the grit and growth that have come to define how Filipino's and Yamaha continue to change the race.

McKinley Kyle Paz: The Wonderboy Rises Again

In the highly competitive SS600 class, "The Wonderboy" McKinley Kyle Paz reminded everyone why he remains a serious contender this season. He carved out an impressive fifth-place finish in Race 1 on Saturday, mastering the tight battles within the leading pack.





"With this round in the books, the Yamaha Philippines Racing Team heads into the second half of the season carrying momentum, pride and the unwavering support of fans back home."





On Sunday, McKinley went one better. He held his nerve in a tense final-lap fight to secure a well-earned podium in Race 2, crossing the line in third place. His pace and composure helped his Hong Leong Yamaha Racing Team protect its lead at the top of the Team Overall Championship standings, strengthening their position as title favorites.

UB150: The Rocket and The Android Keep Climbing

In the unpredictable UB150 category, April King Mascardo and EJ Sobretudo reminded everyone what perseverance looks like.

April King, fondly known as “The Rocket,” stayed sharp and steady throughout Race 1, moving up from ninth on the grid to finish eighth. He then turned up the heat on Sunday, crossing the line in fourth to mark his best finish of the season so far.

EJ “The Android” Sobretudo faced a setback after a crash in Race 1 that

sidelined him early. But he refused to let injury keep him out of the fight. He came back stronger on Sunday, digging deep to claim a determined ninth-place finish and score valuable points for the team.

Quieting the Noise with Results

Motegi was more than just another race weekend, it was proof that hard work, unity and self-belief can overcome any obstacle, on or off the track. Through ups and downs, this Filipino trio continues to show what it means to rise above and race with heart.

With this round in the books, the Yamaha Philippines Racing Team heads into the second half of the season carrying momentum, pride and



the unwavering support of fans back home.

Stay Connected

Catch them in the next round on August 29-31 at Pertamina Mandalika International Circuit, Indonesia.



Stay updated by following the Yamaha socials:

RACING: <https://www.facebook.com/yamaharacingph>

INSTAGRAM: <https://www.instagram.com/yamahaphilippines/>

YOUTUBE: <https://www.youtube.com/yamahaph>

TIKTOK: <https://www.tiktok.com/yamahaph>

TWITTER: https://x.com/yamaha_ph

WORDS BY GIAN DEREK BAMBICO

MG 3 HYBRID+

We drove the MG 3 Hybrid+ for a week, and to be honest, it was an unbelievably nice experience. There's something about the way it handles city errands and weekend escapes that makes driving feel like less of a task and more of a reward. After such a pleasant time with the MG 3 Hybrid+, we're now curious to test other models in MG's lineup—because if this entry-level hybrid is any indication, the brand's trajectory looks promising.

DESIGN



The front fascia doesn't quite work for me—I typically prefer more traditional aesthetics, and the MG 3's angular grille and LED headlamps feel a bit too eager to impress. That said, MG's attempt at a futuristic exterior gives the car some edge, almost like it's one update ahead of current trends. It's bold, even if slightly inconsistent.

Those arched, protruding side lines oddly remind me of styling cues from the late 2000s, which introduces a bit of visual noise. If you squint, you might catch echoes of older European hatchbacks—not necessarily a bad thing, but it muddles the design intent. Fortunately, the rear pulls it all together. A subtle yet sporty hatchback silhouette, a tidy spoiler, and well-proportioned taillights lend the back some visual balance. If you walk away from the MG 3 after parking it,



chances are you'll glance back, and it's the rear you'll be admiring.

Inside, the layout is straightforward. No flashy accents or indulgent materials, but everything's well-positioned. The predominantly dark cabin tones do make things feel more premium than the price suggests. It's functional, clean, and appropriately modern.







EQUIPMENT



The MG 3 Hybrid+ doesn't overpromise: it delivers what you need, and then some. On paper, the spec list might not scream "luxury," but it competes well within its class. You're looking at driver-assist features like parking sensors, lane departure warnings, and adaptive cruise control—features that, a few years ago, were reserved for cars nearly twice the price.

There's no leather upholstery or power-adjustable seats, and that might irk some buyers who equate premium with plush. But what it lacks in tactile indulgence, it makes up for in tech and safety. Standard kit includes a 10.25-inch touchscreen with Apple

CarPlay and Android Auto, push-button start, keyless entry, and even rear A/C vents—a thoughtful touch for back seat passengers. Power windows, auto-folding side mirrors, and an electronic parking brake with auto hold round out the basics.

Safety isn't an afterthought either. You get six airbags, ISOFIX anchors, ABS, electronic brakeforce distribution, and speed-sensing door locks. Throw in blind-spot



monitoring, lane keep assist, and a 360-degree camera, and you've got a hatch that's looking out for you from all angles.

USER EXPERIENCE



One thing's certain: this car is quick. With 187hp and 250Nm of torque coming from the combined hybrid system, the MG 3 Hybrid+ put a grin on my face during highway runs (while observing speed limits, of course). The electric motor's instant torque and the gasoline engine's willing punch make overtaking a breeze.

That might explain my real-world fuel economy of 14km/L, which, while below MG's claims



of 22–26km/L, still feels decent considering the spirited driving. On a more relaxed loop from Quezon City to Subic, I managed 18.8km/L, which is more in line with what most owners can expect.

The ride is composed on good pavement, but a tad firm over uneven surfaces—so yes, dodge the potholes when you can. Rear legroom is a bit tight, especially for adults on the taller side. This wouldn't be the car I'd recommend for ferrying a basketball team, unless they're all below six feet. The front seats are fine, but could use more bolstering. Also, some buttons, especially on the center console, feel mushy or underdamped.

The trunk, though, is surprisingly spacious. You won't struggle fitting in a couple of luggage pieces for a weekend out of town. And despite the cabin's dark tones, which can feel slightly oppressive on long drives, it remains a comfortable

daily driver. The quietness of EV mode at low speeds helps too—it's relaxing in traffic.

VALUE



At PHP1.09 million, the MG 3 Hybrid+ is a no-brainer. Full hybrids at this price point are rare enough, but one with this much kit and safety tech? Unless you hate getting your money's worth, it's a steal.

Factor in the seven-year vehicle warranty, ten-year hybrid battery coverage, and coding exemption under the Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act, and you're looking at a car that's not just affordable, it's practical to own. It undercuts rivals while offering more in the way of hybrid performance.

Whether you're after lower fuel bills, tech features, or just some fun during daily commutes, the MG 3 Hybrid+ offers real return on investment.

BOTTOM LINE

Fast, loaded with tech, and fuel-efficient, the MG 3 Hybrid+ feels like MG is taunting the competition. It's not trying to be flashy. It's trying to be sensible, and that's what makes it compelling.



SHARP WAYS IN E COMFORT AND CO

(Perfect In Rainy Days
And In High Humidity Areas)

Sharp, a globally recognized leader in air purification, offers a range of innovative products designed to enhance your home environment. From advanced air purifiers to intelligent washing solutions, Sharp integrates cutting-edge technology to deliver superior performance and user-friendly features.

Breathe Cleaner, Healthier Air with Sharp Air Purifiers

Sharp's Plasmacluster Air Purifiers are the pinnacle of home air purification. Equipped with multi-stage filtration systems to effectively remove dust, odors, allergens, and microscopic particles from the air.



Sharp Plasmacluster
Air Purifier with Dehumidifier
(DW-J27FP-S)

ELEVATING HOME CONVENIENCE



Sharp Plasmacluster Air Purifier with Dehumidifier (DW-J27FP-S)

Sharp Plasmacluster Air Purifier with Dehumidifier, model DW-J27FP-S, is the brand's flagship Air Purifier. Designed to remove dust and odor using multiple filters, it also targets allergens, microscopic dust, cigarette odor, general in-house odors, and pet hair/large dust particles.

It uses a **DC Motor** and Sharp's **Plasmacluster Ion (PCI) Technology**. This core technology utilizes positive and negative ions to suppress the activity of airborne mold, viruses, and pollen allergens. It also helps reduce static electricity and moisturizes your skin.

It has **Multiple Air Purifying Filters**: A triple filter system ensures comprehensive air purification.

Equipped with a Pre-Filter, Active Carbon Deodorizing Filter, and HEPA Filter to remove various airborne impurities. The HEPA filter collects 99.97% of microscopic particles as small as 0.3 μm . The Active Carbon Deodorizing Filter removes cigarette and unpleasant odors. The Pre-Filter captures large dust particles and pet hair and is washable.

The Sharp Plasmacluster Air Purifier with Dehumidifier (DW-J27FP-S) features **Dehumidifying + 7000 High Density PCI** that reduces humidity, maintaining an environment less prone to mold growth. It prevents mold propagation by releasing 7,000 ions/cm³ PC and dehumidified air.

Finally, this flagship unit can perform laundry drying and air purifying simultaneously. It uses wide-angle louver swings (top, bottom, left, and right) to provide wide-area airflow to deodorize and dry laundry.

The Sharp Plasmacluster Air Purifier with Dehumidifier (DW-J27FP-S) also has these unique features: a **PM2.5 Digital Monitor**, **Mold Control Mode**, **Child Lock**, **Pollen Function**, **Sleep Function**, **Haze Mode**, and a **Timer** that allows setting operation up to 8 hours.

This air purifier with dehumidifier is the perfect investment for those who want to maintain a clean air and remove humidity in their businesses and homes. Its sleek look allows it to perfectly blend in to any location without taking much space. It's also great for any household who want a multipurpose machine with its laundry drying and dehumidifying features.

The Sharp Plasmacluster Air Purifier with Dehumidifier DW-J27FP-S is priced at PHP33,598.00.

Sharp Plasmacluster Air Purifier with Dehumidifier (DW-E16FP-W)

The Sharp Plasmacluster Air Purifier with Dehumidifier, model DW-E16FP-W, is the younger brother of the flagship DW-J27FP-S. This model also features Plasmacluster Ion Technology, which uses positive and negative ions to deactivate airborne mold, viruses, and allergens.

Similar to the flagship Sharp Plasmacluster Air Purifier with Dehumidifier (DW-J27FP-S), it features a **High-Density 7000 Plasmacluster Ions**. It also has an **Auto Dehumidifying Function** that can automatically detect temperature and humidity, maintaining the humidity level at 55%-60%.

The Sharp Plasmacluster Air Purifier with Dehumidifier (DW-E16FP-W) can also **Deodorize Laundry and Laundry drying**. This also has 180° Airflow Movement, providing a wide reach for dehumidifying and deodorizing functions, bringing fresh air throughout the room.

Finally, it has a similar 3-Step Filtering System that includes a Pre-Filter, Active Carbon Deodorizing Filter, and HEPA Filter.

This air purifier with dehumidifier is the perfect companion for the metro condo dwellers. Those who struggle with the dirty metro air and high humidity yet at the same time have limited space. Its laundry deodorizing and dehumidifying features makes it a must-have in this unpredictable weather.



Sharp Plasmacluster Air Purifier with Dehumidifier (DW-E16FP-W)
is available for PHP23,998.00.

Sharp Plasmacluster Air Purifier (PureFit) (FP-S40P-T, FP-S40P-W)

The Sharp Plasmacluster Air Purifier (PureFit) is a sleek air purifier that features Dual Suction & Coanda Airflow. Its sleek design received the International Forum (iF) Design Award for 2024.

Similar to Sharp's Air Purifier with Dehumidifiers, the Sharp Purefit Air Purifier has Plasmacluster Ion Technology that uses positive and negative ions to suppress the activity of adhered pollen allergens, airborne mold, and viruses. It also helps reduce static electricity and moisturize skin.

It utilizes a new double sided dual suction and HEPA and Deodorizer filter that allows it to purify a large capacity of air despite its compact size. The Wallfit Coanda Airflow: Faster airflow at a 20° angle collects dust at lower levels for more effective cleaning and allows placement close to the wall.

Other functions include a Pollen Function, Sleep Function, Haze Mode, a Timer, and a Child Lock.

Sharp Plasmacluster Air Purifier (PureFit) is available in Charcoal Brown (FP-S40P-T) and White (FP-S40P-W), and is priced at PHP13,998.00.



Sharp Plasmacluster Air Purifier (PureFit) (FP-S40P-T)



Sharp Plasmacluster Air Purifier (PureFit) (FP-S40P-W)



Revolutionize Your Laundry Routine with Sharp Washing Machines and Dryers

Aside from their Air Purifiers, Sharp offers advanced washing machines and dryers designed for efficiency and superior fabric care.



Sharp Front Load Fully Automatic Washing Machine (ES-FLC15BV-DS)

The Sharp Front Load Fully Automatic Washing Machine, model ES-FLC15BV-DS, has a washer capacity of 10.5KG and a dryer capacity of 7.0KG. This fully automated washing machine has the brand's J-TECH INVERTER (BLDC inverter) technology, which reduces power consumption, ensures stable operation, is more durable than conventional motors, and provides a quiet space.

It also features the brand's Plasmacluster Ion Technology to remove bacteria and odors from items that cannot be washed with water, and also keeps the drum clean. Its Unique Drum Pattern also provides ample water flow for high washing performance and features

an antibacterial drum to prevent odor and mold growth.

This washing machine has an easy-to-use design that manages to be a sleek design with angled glass surfaces and panels for clean usability. The projected Capacitive Touch Panel adds a layer of protection as it prevents dirt accumulation on buttons and provides a modern, delicate design.

The Sharp Front Load Fully Automatic Washing Machine (ES-FLC15BV-DS) is priced at PHP55,498.00.

Sharp Front Load Heat Pump Dryer (KD-HT10JP-G)

The Sharp Front Load Heat Pump Dryer (KD-HT10JP-G) is the perfect companion to their Fully Automatic Washing Machine. This dryer has a 10.0KG capacity and utilizes a BLDC Inverter similar to the washing machine.

As a Heat Pump Dryer, it uses moist air to absorb moisture from clothes. The moist air passes into an evaporator, which strips the moisture, collected as condensation, and stores it in a tank.

It has 10 drying programs: Mix, Cotton, Synthetics, Down, Hygiene, Quick Dry, Baby Care, Bedding, Warm, and Cool. It also includes some useful accessories like a Rack for drying shoes or fur toys (requires Warm Air program) and a Drain Hose for direct water drainage, especially when not using the water container or when the dryer is stacked on a washer.

The Sharp Front Load dryer also has a balanced, premium appearance and ease of use with touch panel control. There's also a Child Lock that can be activated during operation by pressing the Program button for 3 seconds. This locks all keys except the power key to prevent changes to the drying program due to incorrect operation.

The Sharp Front Load Heat Pump Dryer (KD-HT10JP-G) is priced at PHP57,198.00.

Sharp continues to be recognized as a leading name in home appliances, with its products incorporating the latest tech to help protect the Filipino home.





TOP REASONS INTERNET OUTAGES HAPPEN AND WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Today, a few seconds of WiFi downtime feels like forever. When the internet connection drops mid-rant or mid-episode or the screen freezes during an important meeting, it's more than a tech issue — it's a disruption to your life.



Always On: A Smart Hybrid Modem to always keep you connected

When there's unexpected downtime, PLDT Home's Always On comes in as a groundbreaking solution. It's a first-of-its-kind **hybrid modem** that combines **fiber and LTE**, with a built-in automatic switchover system.

Here's how it works: if the fiber connection goes down, the modem switches to unlimited LTE – no manual setup, no phone tethering, and no annoying prompts. And once the fiber is restored, it seamlessly switches back, without the hassle of manually reconnecting your devices. It works as a backup connection but smarter, automatic, and always ready.

Even better, if your connection has been running on its backup LTE for 30 minutes straight, Always On automatically creates a fault ticket for you so you don't need to call or wait in the queue at the customer service channels. PLDT resolves the connectivity issue while you carry on with your digital activities at home.

Powered by WiFi 6 technology, the PLDT Home Always On modem delivers high-speed internet (up to 1 Gbps, depending on your plan) across multiple devices, ensuring everyone in the family can stay connected. Whether you're working, streaming, or attending class online, you can count on a fast, stable connection that

Internet outage? You can still be online.

PLDT Home Always On can't prevent outages – but it can help you get through them. When fiber is down, it automatically switches to backup LTE so you can stay connected and keep doing what you need to, while PLDT works on restoring your main fiber service. Fiber interruptions often happen for reasons beyond anyone's control. Here are a few real-world examples and why having Always On makes a big difference.

The weather isn't always fiber-friendly

According to **PAGASA**, the Philippines faces around **20** tropical cyclones a year. Strong winds, falling trees, and flooded lines regularly knock out fiber infrastructure. Undersea cable cuts are inevitable during these times. These major cable troubles take time to repair but with PLDT Home Always On, you still have internet access while waiting.

Cable theft is a real problem

Metro Manila accounts for over 60% of nationwide cable thefts in a year, according to a **telco report**. Stolen cables disrupt entire neighborhoods, bringing businesses, school, and remote work to a standstill. With Always On, you can stay online while fiber lines are being replaced.

Small creatures, big trouble

Sometimes, it's not the weather or a thief – it's a rodent or other tiny troublemaker lurking in the neighborhood. Have you heard of the local squirrels? They exist in villages and even in cities where they have been known to chew through fiber cables and cause outages that take time to detect and repair. LTE backup ensures your internet stays live in the meantime.

Roadworks can cut you off

Road constructions, drilling, and digging – especially in urban areas – can accidentally damage underground fiber cables. Often unintentional, these cuts can trigger sudden outages and take time to locate and fix. Always On gives you a connection while the repairs are underway.

The bottom line? PLDT Home Always On works more than an internet backup – it's a smart, seamless solution for a world that can't afford to pause. When the unexpected fiber outages happen, it's good to know that your internet is always one step ahead.

Learn about PLDT Home's Always On [here](#).

Break Free from the Paycheck-to-Paycheck Cycle with These Smart Money Moves

For many, payday doesn't feel like a reward; it feels like a reset button. Money comes in, obligations go out, and by week two, you're already stretching every peso. That's why Maya, the #1 Digital Bank in the Philippines, is changing the game. With smart tools and a seamless experience, Maya helps you build financial breathing room and long-term stability—no spreadsheets required.

Here's how Maya helps you move from just getting by to actually getting ahead:

Make Savings Part of the Plan, Not the Afterthought

Instead of waiting to see what's left at the end of the month, Maya helps you set aside funds the moment your income hits. Maya Savings offers up to 15% p.a. interest credited daily, so your money grows while you focus on your everyday needs. No pressure, no lock-in, no guesswork.

Turn Everyday Spending into Real Rewards

Most people separate spending from saving, but Maya connects the two. Use Maya for your everyday payments, such as bills, groceries, and shopping, and get rewarded with higher savings interest. It's a system that works with your lifestyle, not against it.

Keep Your Goals Clear and Organized

Trying to save for multiple things at once? Maya Personal Goals lets you create up to five customized savings

pockets, each earning a base interest rate of 4% p.a. Whether it's for rent, school fees, a trip, or a backup fund, you can stay organized and track progress without mixing up your priorities.

And when you need a financial cushion, Maya offers Easy Credit, a built-in revolving credit line of up to PHP30,000 that you can use for emergencies, essentials, or even last-minute bills.

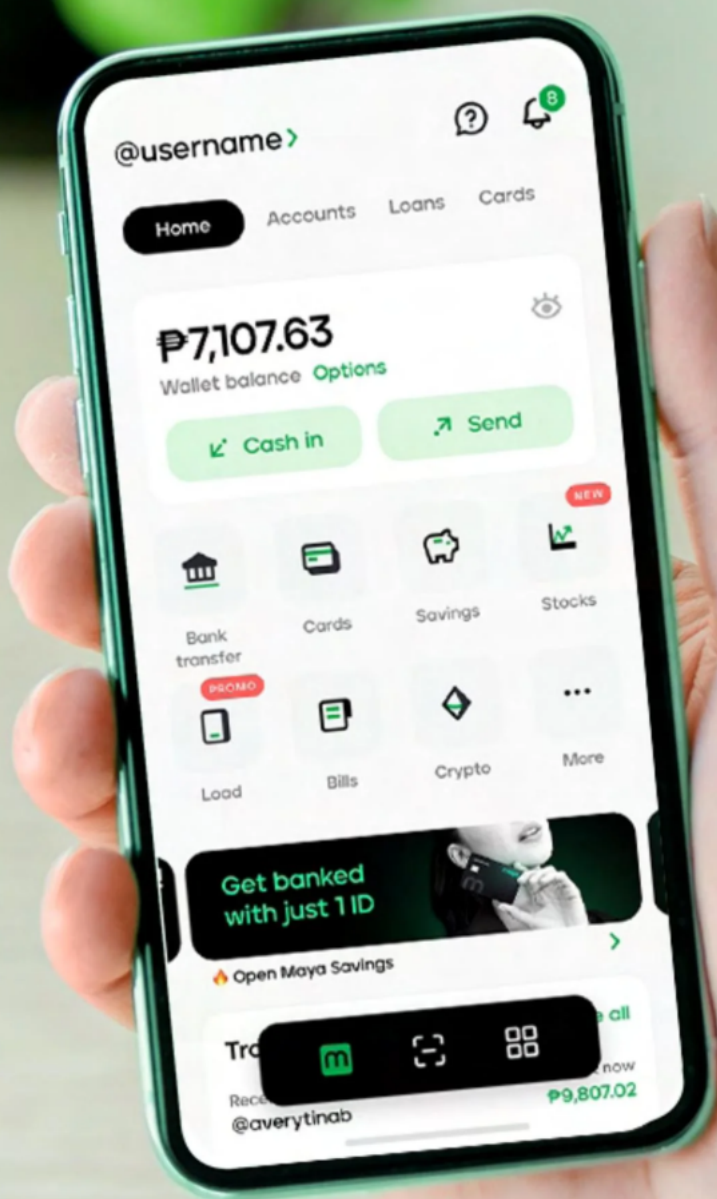
It's a smart, flexible way to stay on track when life doesn't go as planned.

One App, Total Control

Instead of bouncing between multiple apps, Maya brings everything—banking, saving, credit, and payments into one clean, intuitive space. You get a full view of your money and fewer missed payments or budget blind spots.

You shouldn't have to overhaul your lifestyle to feel more secure with your money. Maya is designed to help you make the most of what you have, plan with confidence, and stop living from one cutoff to the next.

Visit maya.ph or mayabank.ph, and follow @mayaiseverything on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok to learn more. Maya Philippines, Inc. and Maya Bank, Inc. are regulated by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (www.bsp.gov.ph). Deposits are insured by PDIC up to PHP1-million per depositor.



Gaming

DUNE AWAKENING

DEVELOPER

Funcom

PUBLISHER

Funcom

PLATFORM

PC, PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X/S

Words by Jose Alvarez

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Multiplayer online games, while plentiful, often have to balance the demands of the player base while maintaining their identity. Survival games add an even bigger twist to the genre: working together to fight off the environment and even other players who want to take everything you've built up and

earned in the game. *Dune: Awakening* is based on Frank Herbert's science fiction franchise *Dune*, which spawned numerous books, comics, films, TV shows, and, of course, video games. But does *Dune: Awakening* continue to add to the franchise's glowing reputation?



Dune video games have been around since 1992, when *Dune* and *Dune II* were released for PC as adventure strategy and real-time strategy (RTS) games, respectively. The latter game became a watershed in RTS history, and while other *Dune* games have come and gone, bringing an iconic sci-fi franchise to an online multiplayer world almost seems like a match made for the survival game aficionado. You take the role of an undercover agent in the world of Arrakis against the backdrop of a civil war between House Atreides and House Harkonnen in an alternate universe where *Dune* protagonist Paul Atreides was never born. You are tasked to find the Firemen and awaken the Sleeper.



Before I set foot into the game, I had to also look at the source material: read the *Dune* books, watch some movies, and a couple of episodes of the TV shows to get an idea of how well the game holds up to the source material itself. When I first stepped into the world of *Dune: Awakening*, memories of endless grinding came flooding back. I was pleasantly surprised to see that there weren't many signs of people getting on what the kids would call the "grindset" in this game. However, they leaned extremely into the survival aspect of the genre: standing out in the sun unprotected means guaranteed death, worms that can devour you in seconds if you don't come prepared, and random

sandstorms that can drop your health to zero in a matter of seconds. To top it off, some areas are irradiated and can kill you faster, so you can't just sit around—and I mean that literally. You will be moving your base around constantly, and you won't have much time to do it with, so you might be forced to start back at square one if you want any hopes at surviving (let alone making it) in Arrakis. One saving grace in a never-ending attempt at avoiding death is that the graphics are stellar, but to truly enjoy the aesthetics, you will need a higher-end PC (thankfully, as of this writing, the PS5 and Xbox Series X/S versions are scheduled to come out in 2026 if you're willing to wait).



Like all online games, I try to hold out hope that certain issues will be patched, but the combat is still a major work in progress. Keeping your distance from enemies may look like a winning strategy, but melee combat edges out ranged as of this writing. I focused on a stealth build with a Hunter Seeker weapon type because everything is trying to kill me, and I wanted an easy escape route (or, ideally, avoid detection altogether). You can also fight on vehicles or in the air with a Suspensor Belt, which is ideal for ranged combat or if you want the most mobility possible. Some fun things you can do in combat include stunning enemies or even using anti-gravity grenades to suspend them in the air.

Remember when I said that there isn't as much of a "grindset" in this game? That's because there are loads of technologies to research, items and equipment to craft, and materials to find without having to repeatedly farm, which is an issue that plagues many online survival MMOs to begin with. Building bases will also cost taxes, basically proving that you can't escape death and taxes even in a video game. The bigger your base, the bigger your tax bill to the Emperor, and if your base isn't profitable or you neglect to pay your taxes, the Sardaukar will come to make you pay with your own blood. (Hint: I would rather fight the Arrakis wildlife than the Emperor's hired goons, if you're wondering how powerful the Sardaukar are.)

It will take about 80 or so hours to complete the campaign, but the real fun begins when you get into the endgame and PvP. If you want the best stuff in the game, PvP is required, which is frustrating because the combat system in its current state still needs a lot of work. What makes it even more fun is that the Deep Desert gets wiped every week by the Coriolis Storm and creates a new, procedurally generated map. If you want to get the most out of the endgame, find a group of friends (or even bring your own) and start taking stuff over, and hopefully, Funcom patches up the combat.

While the game adheres to the source material to the point of actually living (and dying) out the *Dune* experience, like many MMOs and survival games, patches are needed to improve the experience, especially with the current combat system. The game is still fun, and bringing your friends into the fold can be a satisfying experience, especially if you're a fan of the *Dune* series. As a relative newcomer, I appreciated the unique approach that Funcom took with this game, and I look forward to seeing what new content it will release in the future.



END-OF-LIFE DATA SECURITY:

ADDRESSING A GROWING CYBERSECURITY THREAT

Blanco and ITDSI offer solutions for secure data erasure



As the Philippines continues to emerge as a key player in global IT and digital services, the urgency of secure data disposal has never been greater. From international banks and healthcare providers to local fintech startups and government institutions, organizations across the country handle massive volumes of sensitive data daily. Yet one critical area often remains overlooked: the secure erasure of data from decommissioned devices.

Blancco, the world's leading provider of certified data erasure solutions, and its official Philippine distributor **Information Technology Security Distribution Inc. (ITSDI)** are calling on enterprises to make end-of-life data security a top priority. Without proper data sanitization protocols, companies risk serious cybersecurity breaches, regulatory penalties, and reputational damage.

Addressing a Growing Cybersecurity Threat

The Philippines remains one of the most frequently targeted countries in Asia for data breaches. In 2023, cyber incidents involving a major fast-food chain and a government benefits provider exposed the private information of millions of Filipinos. The National Privacy Commission (NPC) cited negligence and outdated data disposal practices as major contributors to these breaches.

Since 2004, more than 124 million Filipino user accounts have been compromised, placing the country fifth in Asia for data exposure. As a result, regulatory pressure has intensified. Under the Data Privacy Act, companies face fines of up to 3% of their gross annual income and imprisonment for violations related to improper data handling and disposal.

"Treating data disposal as an afterthought is no longer acceptable," said Vincent Sim, regional director for Southeast Asia at Blancco. "The final stage of the data lifecycle is just as critical as the first."

Why Data Erasure Matters

The Philippine IT sector manages a vast array of financial, medical, and customer data, with devices regularly cycled out due to modernization and expansion. Without certified erasure solutions, decommissioned hardware becomes a hidden vulnerability as these could be subject to theft, unauthorized resale, or careless disposal.

Studies reveal that up to 67% of secondhand drives still contain recoverable data. In an environment with limited oversight and high equipment turnover, this becomes a serious risk. Many organizations, citing budget constraints or lack of awareness, rely on unreliable deletion tools that leave data intact and offer no audit trail.

Blancco's industry-certified tools ensure total data erasure and provide tamper-proof reports to support internal audits and regulatory compliance.

Partnering for a Safer Digital Future

ITSDI, the trusted local distributor of Blancco in the Philippines, offers comprehensive solutions that help organizations integrate secure data disposal into their broader cybersecurity and risk management frameworks. Earlier this year, Blancco named ITSDI its 2024 Southeast Asia Distributor of the Year, recognizing ITSDI's excellence in implementation, client support, and technical expertise.

"We are proud to recognize ITSDI as Blancco's 2024 Distributor of the Year," said Sim. "This honor reflects their deep commitment to securing client data and promoting certified data erasure across industries in the Philippines."

From multinationals to SMEs and government offices, ITSDI supports its clients with certified tools, implementation services, training, and ongoing support to ensure no data is left behind.

Trust the Global Leader in Data Sanitization

More than just erasing files, Blancco's solutions permanently remove all data and generate verifiable certificates accepted in audits and by regulators. ITSDI ensures clients' decommissioned devices follow Blancco's protocols, protecting them from leaks, legal risks, and compliance failures.

"Hackers and breaches are constant threats. The best defense is to eliminate the risk at its source," said Sim. "With ITSDI as our Philippine partner, local businesses can confidently secure their sensitive data—making it inaccessible even after a device is retired."

Secure Your Data Before Disposal

Secure Your Data Before Disposal
For companies managing sensitive or regulated data, peace of mind begins with proactive action. Secure data erasure is no longer a technical option—it's a business necessity.

To learn more about Blancco's certified data erasure solutions and how ITSDI can help secure your organization's data lifecycle, contact ITSDI at (02) 8858-5558, email sales@itsdi.com.ph, or visit www.itsdi.com.ph.

CISCO DEMONSTRATION INFRASTRUCTURE LE FOR THE AI ERA



At the recently concluded [Cisco Live](#), Cisco showcased a suite of innovations designed to power the next generation of secure infrastructure in the age of artificial intelligence. As enterprises race to harness AI's transformative potential, Cisco has reinforced its role as a trusted partner, offering robust, AI-optimized systems that unlock value while maintaining security and resilience.

"Cisco is delivering the critical infrastructure for the AI era—secure networks and experiences, optimized for AI that connect the world and power the global economy," said Jeetu Patel, Cisco's president and chief product officer. "We're witnessing an unprecedented surge in innovation as organizations embrace agentic AI to automate workflows and solve complex problems."

This message resonated with customers like Ford Motor Company, whose chief information security officer, Patrick Milligan, underscored the importance

of secure, scalable infrastructure. "Agentic AI is being used across Ford's business, from design to engineering to manufacturing and customer support. As we build, deploy, and manage sophisticated AI capabilities at scale, Cisco's networking and security solutions are a critical part of our technology infrastructure."

Intelligent Workplaces for the AI Age

Cisco introduced a range of new hardware and software solutions tailored to campus, branch, and industrial networks. These included AI-powered unified management tools that enable organizations to move beyond reactive workflows toward autonomous, proactive network operations. A standout was Cisco's AI-powered Room Vision PTZ camera, which elevated hybrid meetings with a cinematic touch.

ES SECURE ADERSHIP

Cisco also announced integrations that enhance collaboration and productivity, such as Jira Workflow Automation within the Cisco AI Assistant for the Webex Suite, and the Webex AI Agent, which delivers streamlined customer self-service using industry-specific templates.

Simplified IT Operations with AgenticOps

Cisco continued its push toward autonomous IT operations with innovations such as the Cisco AI Canvas. This industry-first generative user interface enables real-time collaboration between networking and security teams. Another innovation is the Cisco AI Assistant that offers conversational control across Cisco's suite of solutions. At the core of these capabilities is Cisco's proprietary Deep Network Model, a domain-specific large language model trained on Cisco's vast corpus of technical knowledge, including Certified Internetwork Expert (CCIE) materials.

Future-Ready Data Centers

Recognizing the bandwidth, latency, and power efficiency demands of AI workloads, Cisco unveiled enhancements to its compute and networking solutions for modern data centers. The company also announced its participation in the EPRI Open Power AI Consortium, aiming to drive AI adoption in energy infrastructure. Additional capabilities were introduced to help service providers monetize new AI services more effectively.

Security in the AI-Driven Landscape

Cisco emphasized that security must evolve in tandem with the advancement of AI. The company launched updates across its Hybrid Mesh Firewall and Universal Zero Trust Network Access (ZTNA) solutions, along with two new firewall series—the 6100 and 200—offering significant price-performance value. New functionalities in the Cisco Security Cloud were also revealed to help enterprises navigate AI-related security challenges.

Enhancing Digital Resilience

Cisco demonstrated deeper integrations between its products and Splunk's observability solutions, following its acquisition of the platform. Key highlights included new capabilities in Splunk Observability Cloud and Splunk AppDynamics, as well as a bidirectional integration between Splunk, Cisco ThousandEyes Assurance, and Cisco Enterprise Networks. These updates enable customers to maintain resilient, insight-driven operations even as digital ecosystems grow in complexity.

Unified Management with Cisco Cloud Control

Finally, Cisco offered a first look at Cisco Cloud Control, a unified management platform spanning networking, security, and observability. Anchored by AI-native tools like the Cisco AI Canvas and Cisco AI Assistant, Cloud Control is designed to simplify IT operations by enabling cross-product workflows, predictive issue resolution, and intuitive infrastructure management.

A New Era, Powered by Cisco

With these advancements, Cisco reaffirmed its commitment to providing the secure, scalable, and intelligent infrastructure required in the AI era. As enterprises embrace the promise of agentic AI, Cisco is helping them move boldly into the future—safely, seamlessly, and at scale.

EMPOWERING FAMILIES WITH FLEXIBLE ONLINE EDUCATION

NTC Smartclass offers innovative homeschooling program for effective learning

The educational landscape is rapidly evolving, driven by advancements in technology and changing learning styles. While traditional systems are only beginning to adapt, National Teachers College (NTC), following its merger with APEC Schools, offers a forward-thinking solution: NTC SmartClass. This innovative homeschooling program combines NTC's extensive teaching experience with APEC's tech-focused approach to foster meaningful and effective learning, sparking a child's curiosity.



Dave in a SmartClass learning session. With the combination of flexible scheduling and customizable curriculum, the program can adjust based on the learner's preferences.



Dave, now in Grade 10, credits SmartClass with sparking his interest in tech, allowing him to learn skills such as 3D modeling and printing.

NTC SmartClass offers significant academic flexibility, allowing students to learn at their own pace, revisit topics as needed, and explore advanced subjects when they are ready. The program adapts to individual student schedules, offering a personalized learning environment.

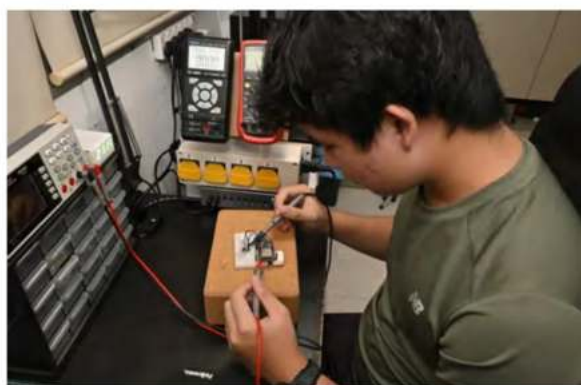
Marie Cruz, an NTC SmartClass parent, observed a notable increase in the engagement of her son, Dave. "In the previous [homeschooling program], he told me that it was okay, but he wasn't being stimulated to learn more," she stated. "With SmartClass, the Subject Matter Experts spark something in them to delve deeper."

Marie also highlighted how the program nurtured Dave's specific interests. "My son is tech-y, and now, he is into 3D printing and modeling, as well as programming, all because he's learning at his own pace."

She also noted the program's broader family benefits, including financial savings. "The money we save from not having to pay for school buses, commuting, and school lunches goes to our travels, because we like to travel as a family. NTC SmartClass helped us do that."

Cherille Siquete, another homeschooling parent, found NTC SmartClass to be an ideal solution when traditional schooling proved unsuitable for her daughter.

"It was really like a hand in a glove," Cherille shared. "It was a perfect fit for me and my child because the values are there, and it's so flexible that she can attend



her classes or not, depending on her, so it's really the best choice for us."

After a year in the program, she noted a significant increase in her daughter's independence and accountability.

"Their independence and accountability really go up," she added. "Because it is their responsibility to know and submit their projects; if they do not, there are consequences. Therefore, they try their best to submit all their requirements." Cherille emphasized, "There's a different kind of skill and a different kind of value that they would be able to get from SmartClass that they won't get from traditional schools or other homeschool programs."

NTC SmartClass is at the forefront of modern education, delivering a dynamic and personalized learning experience that empowers students and enriches family life.

To learn more about how NTC SmartClass can be the right choice for your family, visit their website at smartclass.ntc.edu.ph.

Canva NOW EMBEDDED INTO AI TOOLS

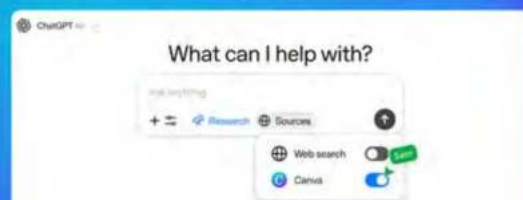
In a landmark leap for AI-powered creativity, Canva has become the first design platform to deeply embed its creative suite into the world's most advanced AI tools, including ChatGPT. Two major launches — the deep research connector with ChatGPT and the Canva Model Context Protocol (MCP) Server — turn Canva into a powerful AI platform that plugs seamlessly into AI assistants and agents to securely access your designs and generate new ones, all within the same conversation.

As businesses and creators increasingly adopt AI-first workflows, Canva is pioneering a new era of AI-native design. Whether analyzing a marketing campaign, drafting a business plan, or generating social content, you can now brainstorm, design, and publish without leaving your AI assistant, unlocking new levels of creativity and speed.

By bringing Canva's creative power directly into AI assistants, Canva is redefining how its 240 million users, including 95% of Fortune 500 companies, design, collaborate, and communicate, streamlining the entire content journey from concept to completion.

"AI agents and assistants have become indispensable creative partners, yet current workflows require users to manually add context or references, creating complexity," said Anwar Haneef, GM and head of ecosystem at Canva. "We're embedding Canva directly into the AI tools people use every day so they can brainstorm, create, and publish content faster. This is a major step in our vision to make the complex simple and build an all-in-one AI workflow that's secure and accessible to all."

Connect your *Canva* content to ChatGPT



Your Canva designs, accessible in ChatGPT

Canva's deep research connector with ChatGPT will now connect users' designs directly to OpenAI's most advanced model, enabling specific, thoughtful, and context-rich responses grounded in your past work. Without needing to switch between tabs or dig for information, users can simply prompt ChatGPT to analyze or refine content across Canva Docs, Presentations, and more. With instant access to your design history, this integration removes friction and makes cross-platform creation and collaboration effortless.

Privacy and security are built in from the ground up. Every interaction is protected by Canva Shield, the company's comprehensive AI trust and safety framework.

The Canva deep research connector unlocks productivity and inspiration for:

- **Marketers:** summarizing campaign reports, pulling key messaging from brand guides, and referencing launch plans
- **Business owners:** analyzing business reports, summarizing past meeting notes, and exploring growth plans

- **Sales:** analyzing customer feedback, searching for key value propositions or pricing slides, and preparing proposals
- **Educators:** pulling key points for lesson plans and curriculum, and referencing past learning objectives

"Launching the Canva deep research connector means businesses and their employees get faster, better insights because ChatGPT has more context. We're thrilled to work together to bring powerful AI to many of today's most important workflows," said Nate Gonzalez, Head of Business Products at OpenAI.

Canva MCP Server: A new era in AI-powered design

The Canva Model Context Protocol (MCP) Server allows any AI assistant to tap directly into a user's full Canva workspace, from design history to creative tools and templates, all within a natural, conversational flow. It brings real-time context into every interaction, enabling AI to generate richer, more relevant content that's always on-brand and instantly usable.

With one-click integrations for OpenAI's ChatGPT, Salesforce's Agentforce, and more coming soon, this update brings Canva's creative power into the top professional AI tools. Designs generated through MCP are visually rich and context-aware, thanks to real-time access to both the user's Canva account and the ongoing AI conversation.

With the Canva MCP Server, AI assistants and agents can:

- Generate any design type, from social posts to presentations, incorporating context from your chat
- Autofill charts with labeled, formatted data from AI-generated insights
- Resize and export branded templates, from Presentations to Canva Docs, with on-brand, contextual copy
- Import PDFs or files directly from a link, no upload needed



Accelerating Canva's pluggable AI platform

Canva's flexible, multi-model AI product strategy, spanning proprietary models, partner models, and a robust apps ecosystem, has positioned the company to rapidly adopt emerging frameworks like MCP.

These updates expand on Canva's continued AI innovation, building on recent launches like Canva AI, Canva Code, and AI-powered content creation in Canva Sheets. Together, these tools accelerate creativity while preserving brand consistency, driving 18 billion AI tool uses as educators, marketers, creators, and more embrace AI as an essential creative partner.

To experience the future of AI-assisted design, get started with the Canva MCP Server by visiting the [Canva Developers community](#).

RADIO OPTIMISM



MAKE THE TUNES

AND SOMEONE'S DAY



LG aims to spread its 'Life's Good' message through music



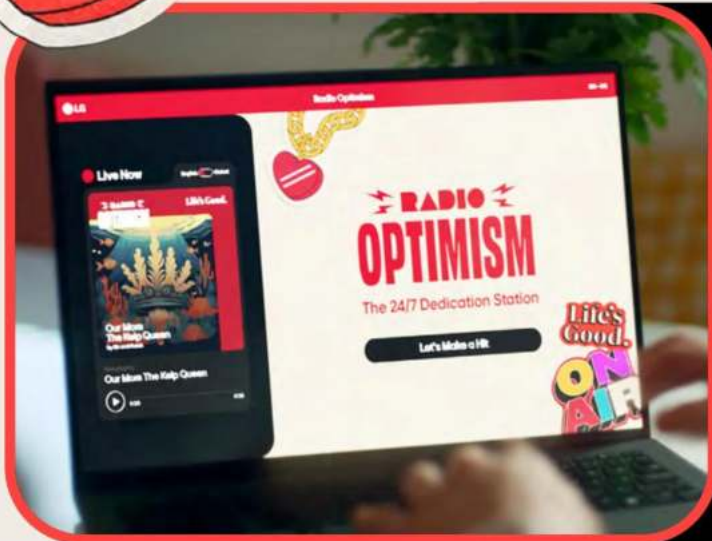
LG Electronics (LG) has launched a new brand campaign, "Radio Optimism," designed to help strengthen meaningful human connections and spread optimism through shared musical experiences. This initiative aligns with LG's brand promise, "Life's Good," and addresses the growing challenge of forming genuine relationships in a technology-driven world.

The Radio Optimism campaign seeks to counteract the disconnection often felt in an era dominated by superficial interactions, such as likes and comments on social media. By harnessing the power of music, LG aims to foster deeper bonds among individuals, promoting a more fulfilling life.





“As technology advances, meaningful human connections become increasingly vital to enrich our lives. LG continues its commitment to bringing optimism into customers’ daily lives, staying true to our enduring brand promise of ‘Life’s Good,’” said Kim Hyo-eun, head of LG’s Brand Management Division.



This campaign reinforces LG’s commitment to creating enriching experiences in digital spaces where today’s consumers spend significant time. Building on this mission, LG has continuously engaged with younger audiences through participatory campaigns that bring the Life’s Good philosophy to life. Last year’s “Optimism your feed” campaign leveraged social algorithms to foster positivity on social media. This new initiative specifically seeks to address the paradoxical disconnection in an era of hyper-connectivity.

“One of the most reliable predictors of happiness is having deep and meaningful relationships,” said Jean M. Twenge, professor of psychology at San Diego State University. “Yet today, many people are spending more time online and less time connecting in person. Social media in particular tends to create shallow relationships rather than the deep connections people need. It’s common for people to have hundreds of followers but no one to talk to in real life if they need support. We need to build more meaningful connections with those around us. That might turn around the pronounced decline in happiness that’s occurred over the last decade.”

A new global study from LG on social connection reveals that 68% of people find it harder to make real friends, and a third reported having one or fewer meaningful connections in the past month, with 8% experiencing none at all.

Inspired by the unique way that traditional radio connects people through music and storytelling, the Radio Optimism campaign transforms this concept into an interactive platform where participants can create and send personalized songs to their loved ones. Users can easily create new songs using AI-powered

tools, which are thoroughly trained on a curated music dataset. These tools interpret user prompts to create unique musical pieces and generate corresponding album art, offering an engaging and personalized experience. Once generated, these songs can be sent to recipients to deepen their connection and made available for others to discover worldwide.

According to the survey, nearly 9 in 10 respondents believe that meaningful connections lead to a more optimistic outlook on life. By providing a platform for individuals to express their feelings, this campaign aims to foster deeper connections and help individuals enrich their lives while spreading optimism in their own ways.

The campaign website is available in English and Spanish, with plans to support additional languages in the coming months to enable broader participation. The official website can be found at RadioOptimism.lg.com.



Life isn’t just about having the latest technology—it’s about the meaningful experiences it creates and the impact it brings to our everyday lives.

**Life's
Good.**

PNP READY TO IMPLEMENT FULLY INTEGRATED EMERGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK

Brigadier General William O. Segun, newly installed head of the Communications and Electronic Services (CES) of the Philippine National Police (PNP), is set to implement key improvements that will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the PNP's Emergency 911 response system during his term.

According to the former Deputy Commander of the PNP Area Police Command in Southern Luzon, the PNP and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) will work with a system provider to build a cutting-edge, fully integrated emergency communications network that will let the PNP provide timely and effective public safety services to the public nationwide.

"Public safety and quick response rank No. 1 in importance to the PNP, particularly for the CES. It is fundamental to our mandate, which is to maintain peace and order, protect life and property, and enforce the law," General Segun said.

He pointed out key points that will revitalize the way the PNP responds to emergency calls using next-gen, state of the art technology. According to BGen. Segun, next-gen technology will let the PNP integrate its communication systems with the national 911 platform that is equipped with an Emergency Location System (ELS) and has caller location mapping and data integration. The PNP, the DILG E911 Commission, the DICT, NTC, TELCO providers, Google Asia and the service provider can all share data to ensure seamless collaboration for faster response times.

Emergency call takers and responders will have comprehensive training



in emergency call handling, crisis intervention techniques, telephone etiquette and first aid. Field officers will use real-time mobile communication tools, including body cameras, audio recording devices and messaging apps to more efficiently communicate.

Segun shared that the incident monitoring system of the national police will be vastly improved by systems development that will add data fields for monitoring performance and challenges. The system will be able to generate and print pre-formatted reports for improved analysis and response strategy development. Prank calls will be filtered and routed to another channel because prank callers can now be easily identified by the system and penalized according to law.

The CES chief said a comprehensive public awareness campaign will also be launched to educate the public on the proper use of 911 services.

"The PNP CES must transform into a tech-savvy, data-driven, and highly connected force that embraces digital innovation. We are looking at AI-powered dispatch systems for optimized resource

allocation, predictive policing tools to anticipate and prevent crime hotspots, and advanced data analytics to identify trends and improve response strategies. We will prioritize rapid and coordinated response, through improved inter-agency communication and real-time data sharing, and maintain strong public engagement through proactive community outreach programs. These are crucial to address the complex safety challenges of today and the future," General Segun asserted.

"The 911 technology will enable the public to report accidents immediately, providing exact location and details of incidents. This ensures that PNP stations and units are dispatched promptly and accurately based on the data from the 911 call-takers and dispatchers. For example, in a vehicular accident with medical emergency, ambulances are dispatched simultaneously with the call. This inter-agency coordination minimizes delays and maximizes efficiency."

The 911 hotline is the official and centralized emergency number for police, fire, medical, and other emergency services nationwide, Segun said. It operates 24/7 and is free and accessible to all.

EPSON BRAND CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Epson, a global technology leader, celebrated its 50th anniversary this June, honoring the enduring support of its customers and partners who have been vital to its success. Guided by the founding principles of “Integrity and Effort” and “Creativity and Challenge,” Epson strives to continue delivering industry-leading products that exceed expectations and delight users worldwide.

Epson launched the compact and lightweight EP-101 digital electronic printer in 1968. It was this printer that served as the impetus for the creation of the Epson brand in 1975. The brand name reflects the company’s hopes of preserving the value of the electronic printer (“EP”) while continuing to create many valuable derivatives (“SONs”). Since officially becoming Epson in 1975, the brand has consistently evolved, embodying the spirit of innovation and quality that defines its legacy and global presence.

Epson specializes in a broad range of innovative technologies, including high-precision printers for home, office and industrial use.

Epson’s legacy in printing began with pioneering products like the MJ-500 and MJ-700V2C, which brought high-quality printing to homes with Micro Piezo technology. Today, its commercial and industrial inkjet solutions – powered by PrecisionCore printheads – set global benchmarks for quality and efficiency. Epson launched the Monna Lisa 160B, a digital textile printing machine in 2003 and introduced the SurePress series of digital label presses to meet the diverse printing needs of the industrial sectors. In 2010, Epson revolutionized printing with high-capacity ink tank printers, offering a cost-effective, low-maintenance alternative to laser printers. Now available in 170



countries, over 100 million units have been sold as of September 2024.

In addition to printing technology, Epson has also developed its reputation for high-quality projectors for business, education, and other entertainment applications. Leveraging expertise in liquid crystal technology, originally developed for LCD watches, Epson delivered advanced HTPS panels that enable superior image quality in projectors. Key milestones include the VPJ-700 and ELP-3000 projectors, and EB-L25000U which became the world’s brightest 3LCD laser projector, underscoring Epson’s leadership in the global projection market.

Epson has also developed robotic automation solutions which secured and maintained the world’s top market share in terms of sales revenue in the industrial SCARA robot segment. By combining our robots with proprietary force sensors and camera-based image recognition technology, Epson has enabled its robots to perform delicate work that requires a human-like sense of touch. Building on these innovations, Epson continues to focus on delivering speed, precision, durability, and sustainability to meet diverse market needs, while maintaining

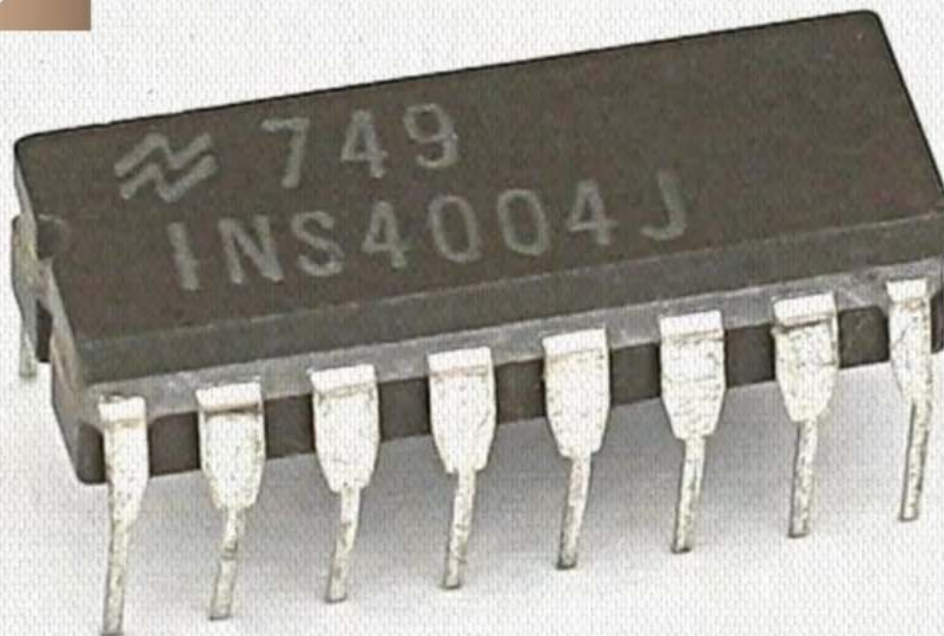
its commitment to quality and innovation.

Epson has built a global network of production and sales sites to deliver value and respond quickly to customer needs worldwide. International expansion began in 1968 with watch case manufacturing in Singapore and have since expanded production globally with major sites in China, Indonesia and the Philippines, enabling support for diverse international markets. The extensive network allows close monitoring of local market needs and enables the tailoring of products, such as high-capacity ink tank printers that first launched in Indonesia.

Epson is globally recognized for its commitment to efficient, compact, and precise technologies – core to the brand’s DNA. These innovations power a wide range of products from printers and projectors to robots. This dedication to technology and manufacturing excellence has earned the trust of professionals worldwide. Epson products are known for their quality, reliability and ability to meet the demands of diverse industries.

“Over the past decades, Epson has pursued innovation with purpose – creating efficient, compact and precise technologies that drive progress while reducing environmental impact. As we mark this milestone, we remain committed to advancing sustainable, energy-efficient solutions that empower industries and shape a better future,” said Masako Kusama, president and director of Epson Philippines Corporation.

Guided by its core principles and inspired by the beauty of Nagano’s nature, Epson is dedicated to enriching lives, protecting the environment and creating a better world for future generations.



INTEL 4004

Words by Jose Alvarez

The late Steve Jobs once said, "Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower." The most brilliant minds have made great innovations such as the telephone, the automobile, and other technologies, gadgets, and concepts that we have discussed here in Relic. But what about the smaller innovations that go unnoticed, yet paved the way for larger ones? The Intel 4004 microprocessor was one of those innovations. This allowed for computers to go from the size of an entire room to something you can easily carry around in your hand in only a few generations. What did the Intel 4004 do, and how are we seeing its impact today?

As previously mentioned, computers took up entire rooms in the 1950s. The start of the Intel 4004 came about as an innovation based on the design of a 1965 Italian-made calculator, the Olivetti Programma 101. This calculator was a desktop programmable calculator that weighed 35.5 kg (~78.3 lb), stored 240 bytes of memory, and had a 36-key keyboard. Basicom asked Intel to produce a 12-chip set to handle operations for an upcoming

electronic calculator in 1969 that would use integrated circuits instead of printed circuit boards and use solid-state shift registers for memory. This would reduce the chip count using Intel's medium-scale integration (MSI) technique.

Marcian Hoff (1937-), Intel's 12th employee, was assigned to be the liaison between Basicom and Intel. Three Basicom employees, led by Masatoshi Shima (1943-) and two other colleagues named Masuda and Takayama, came to introduce the concept to Intel. Hoff also began to study the idea himself. The initial proposal came with seven integrated circuits (ICs): program control, arithmetic unit (ALU), timing, program read-only memory (ROM), shift registers for temporary memory, a printer controller, and input/output (I/O) control. However, Hoff saw that the number of chips and making connections between them would make Basicom's price goals impossible to meet. He raised the issue with then-Intel CEO Bob Noyce (1927-1990), also known as the "Mayor of Silicon Valley", who gave Hoff his support for an alternative, more feasible approach.

One of the main issues with this design is that the program control and ALU were not aimed at the calculator market, and that the program in ROM turned it into a calculator. Hoff noticed that the instruction set architecture matched general-purpose computers, and questioned if the processors could be made cheaply enough to be used in a calculator. Intel also had been pioneering dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chips, and shift registers were one of the few low-cost read and write memory devices. One limitation of shift registers was that it was unsuitable for random access, as each access had to wait for each bit to flow through the chain. At the same time, DRAM allowed random access, thus saving valuable real estate on the board as compared to the six-transistor shift register cell. To further save space, Hoff also noticed that every instruction was implemented separately, so he suggested that subroutine calls and instructions should simply be interpreted as subroutines where possible, and, most importantly, conceptualize a general-purpose microprocessor that could be given instructions, return the results, and



merge all CPU functions of a computer. The new design took only four chips, including one programmable for use—this would later become the 4004 microprocessor.

While many of these concepts could be split into their own articles, a key moment occurred when Stanley Mazor (1941-) joined Intel from Fairchild in September 1969. Mazor quickly solved many of the design complications encountered by Busicom from both a financial and technical standpoint, creating a 16-pin dual in-line package (DIP) layout that addressed the mismatch between data (4 bits) and address space (12 bits or 4096 bytes), which required 24 pins at a bare minimum for direct access. Mazor also used multiplexing of a single set of 4 lines, thus reducing seven Busicom chips to only four Intel chips (CPU, ROM, RAM, and I/O devices).

A new Intel employee, Federico Faggin (1941-), also from Fairchild, joined in April 1970. Faggin's addition was extremely vital as he had experience designing the actual silicon, which neither Hoff nor Mazor could do. Faggin led the MOS silicon gate technology development and developed the first commercial integrated circuit (IC) made with it. ICs at the time required significant development time. Faggin improved on the concept by doping silicon, enabling interconnections at any point in the process and saving additional space on the circuit. Faggin also used the self-aligned gate process to develop the chip, reportedly working 70-80 hour workweeks to complete the Intel 4004 design.

The Intel 4004 was composed of four chips called the "4004 family". It consisted of a 256-byte 4-bit ROM (Intel 4001), DRAM of four 20-nibble registers totaling 40 bytes (Intel 4002), an I/O chip with a 10-bit static shift register with serial and parallel outputs (Intel 4003), and the CPU itself (Intel 4004). Mass production began in October 1971. Busicom was in financial difficulty at the time, so Faggin convinced Noyce to reduce the price in exchange for releasing Intel from the exclusivity agreement. The Intel 4004 first appeared in the November 1971 edition of *Electronics*. Faggin even etched his initials, F.F., into the 4004. The first product to use the 4004 was the Busicom calculator 141-PF, and it was reportedly used for teller machines and billing machines. Faggin himself even repeated a myth that the Pioneer 10, the first spacecraft to leave the Solar System, used an Intel 4004 processor, but another chip was used instead.

The legacy of the Intel 4004 lives on, with some PC enthusiasts even saying that it was the most significant invention of the 20th century, indirectly leading to the founding of *both* Apple and Microsoft later on in the 1970s. The founders of both companies used the Altair 8800 as a starting point. The Altair 8800 used the Intel 4004's successor, the 8080, in its chipset, with Jobs forming Apple due to its presentation at the Homebrew Computer Club (of which Jobs and fellow co-founder Steve Wozniak were members). Bill Gates and Paul Allen created a BASIC interpreter for the Altair 8800, which led to the founding of Microsoft. We can thank the Intel 4004 for that, and for accelerating the use of computers for personal use and numerous innovations in technology that continue to this very day.

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MEET THE TEAM

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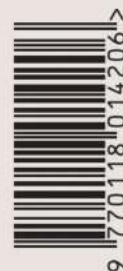
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FEATURE

Lenovo Legion Go S

Handheld gaming PCs have gone from niche to borderline mainstream in a few short years. With more gamers craving portability that even the lightest gaming laptops can't match, it's no surprise that companies are scrambling ...**more**

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